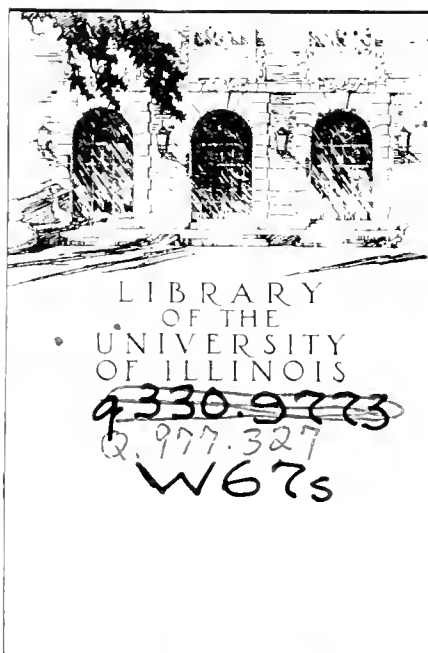


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*The*  
**STORY**  
*of*  
**STREATOR**





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# THE STORY OF STREATOR



BEING AN ACCOUNT OF THE GROWTH OF ITS INSTITUTIONS, CIVIC, SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ITS MANUFACTURING AND BUSINESS INTERESTS, TOGETHER WITH AN OUTLINE OF ITS EARLY HISTORY AND LIFE SKETCHES OF SOME OF ITS LEADING CITIZENS



EDITED BY  
J. E. WILLIAMS

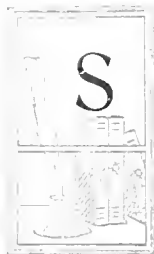
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THE INDEPENDENT-TIMES  
STREATOR, ILL.

1912



# FLASHLIGHTS OF STREATOR



TREATOR was platted in 1868; organized as a village in 1870; organized as a city in 1882.

In 1870 it had a population of 1486; in 1880 it numbered 5,157; in 1912 it claims 18,000 in city and environs.

It was named after Dr. W. L. Streator, president of the Vermillion Coal Company, which opened the first shipping coal mines in 1866.

It is situated 93 miles southwest of Chicago, on the Vermillion River, at the southern extremity of La Salle County where it joins Livingston; in the heart of the famous corn belt of North America, and in one of the healthiest and most productive regions.

It is surrounded by the richest farms on the continent, whose value runs from \$200 to \$300 per acre, and whose owners and cultivators are wealthy, progressive and intelligent.

It is reached by gravel roads from every direction, and these will soon be superseded by brick to accommodate the automobiles now owned by nearly every rich farmer.

It stands on two producing seams of coal, and 40 feet of workable shale, than which there is none better in America for the making of vitrified brick.

It reaches the markets through seven lines of railroad, which radiate in twelve different directions, and which reach thirty-one different states and territories. Their combined mileage is 45,000 miles.

Its freight rates are the same or better than Chicago; its car service is prompt, speedy and sure; there are plenty of switch engines and crews and switching charges are absorbed.

It has fourteen coal mines operating in two seams of coal.

It has 25,000 acres of unmined third vein coal, pronounced by the C. B. & Q. fuel inspector the best engine coal in Northern Illinois.

It has four shale and clay working factories making brick, tile and sewer pipe and employing 600 men.

It has thousands of acres of undeveloped shale, without a superior in America.

Its bottle factory runs 24 hours a day and makes 6,480,000 bottles per week, being 45,000 per hour, or 740 per minute. It covers forty-five acres, employs 1800 men, and consumes 400 tons of coal per day.

It has 30 passenger and 40 freight trains daily.

It handles an average of 8 000,000 pounds of freight daily.

It received and shipped in 1911 freight amounting to 2,470,000,000 pounds, 110,000,000 pounds being in less than carload lots.

It took 39,500 30-ton cars to handle this freight, which, if made up in trains of 25 cars each, would extend over 300 miles of trackage.

It is an outer belt for Chicago, and the above figures do not include the vast amounts of freight transferred or that passed through the city.

Its Santa Fe pay roll alone amounts to \$10,000 per month, most of it in yard and transfer service.

It shipped 375 automobiles in 1912 over one road alone, exclusive of those sent by other roads.

It is only two hours by express from Chicago.

It has 30 miles of vitrified brick street paving, surpassing any city of its size in the country.

It has 16 miles of sewers.

It built \$250,000 of new buildings last year, one of the most prosperous building years in its history.

It has 12 miles of concrete and 75 miles of brick sidewalks.

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It has a fine public park of eleven acres in the heart of the city, and two smaller parks.

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It has a splendid wooded Chautauqua park of twenty acres with a commodious steel pavillion seating 5,000 people.

---

It has an attractive nine-hole golf course of fifty-five acres, with a comfortable country club house.

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It has a well patronized \$50,000 public library, containing 16,000 volumes.

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It has two fine club buildings, the Elks and the Streater Club, the latter being thrown open hospitably to public uses when occasion justifies.

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It has a fine Masonic Temple and an Odd Fellows building.

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It has the largest retail department store for a town of its size—or of three times its size—in the world, it having 140,000 square feet of flooring under one roof.

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It has seven splendid school buildings of modern construction, which cost about \$300,000.

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It has twenty churches of all denominations.

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It has a well equipped modern opera house, and four other picture and vaudeville theatres.

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It has three excellent hotels.

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It has three daily newspapers and a German weekly.

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It has \$15,000,000 invested in industries, inclusive of the American Bottle Company, whose parent plant and headquarters are here.

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It has as good a climate and as low a mortality rate as any city in the union.

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It manufactures annually 7,000,000 milk jars, most of which are used in the Chicago milk trade.

It produces 3,000,000 square feet of rolled plate glass per year and furnishes 80 per cent of the wire and skylight glass used in the loop district, Chicago.

— o —

It makes 1,500,000 pounds of Illinois Valley Creamery butter per year.

— o —

It has a garter factory that turns out 3,000,000 pairs of garters annually.

— o —

It packed 2,500,000 cans of corn last year and will increase the amount this year.

— o —

It has an abundant supply of artesian water which its factories tap on their own grounds and use for boiler and other uses.

— o —

It turned out last year 2 000 carloads of sewer pipe.

— o —

It manufactures 60,000,000 vitrified shale brick annually, which lead in the building and paving brick trade of the central and northwest.

— o —

It has a mining capacity of three-quarters of a million tons of coal annually.

— o —

Its urban transportation is cared for by street cars of the Public Service Company, and its interurban travel by the Chicago, Ottawa and Peoria Railway Company, which connects with the McKinley interurban system of the state.

— o —

Its total bank transactions for the past year were in excess of \$50,000,000.

— o —

Its four building and loan associations have 2,200 different shareholders, and their total receipts last year aggregated \$300,000.

— o —

Its citizens are largely home-owners, as its building and loan figures show; for the \$300,000 received by these societies last year was loaned largely to home-builders—and the same is true of former years.

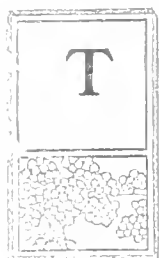
— o —

In addition to the inducements the city and the Commercial Club may have to offer factory owners, the railroads have secured some splendid tracts of real estate, admirably located for shipping purposes, and on the promise of increased business, are prepared to deal liberally with prospective investors.

— o —

It has a live Commercial Club which will be glad to give any further information.

# FOREWORD BY THE CLUB



THE Streator Commercial Club takes pleasure in presenting to the public what is believed to be the first adequate review of Streator's resources, its business advantages, its history and its characteristics, that has been published.

A perusal of the work will show that care has been taken to present the significant features of the city in a dignified and worthy way, and that the triviality and exaggeration usually found disfiguring a work of this character has been avoided.

The fundamental facts about the town have been set forth with truth and clearness; many points not hitherto noticed have been brought out with a new emphasis, and the whole has been treated in a readable and interesting manner.

We commend "The Story of Streator" to any prospective investor or home maker or any citizen or friend of Streator desiring a true and interesting account of the men and the forces that have made the town.

The Club will be pleased to correspond with interested parties and to give such additional and detailed information as it may possess.

The variety and excellence of its illustrations, as well as the high quality of its mechanical execution, will make it a fine souvenir of Streator; equally good to keep or to send away to friends.

Streator Commercial Club.

## OFFICERS:

P. J. LUCEY	-	-	-	President.
F. T. ROLPH	-	-	-	Vice-Pres.
O. B. RYON	-	-	-	Secretary
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P. J. Lucey	R. F. Purcell	M. B. Haskell
F. T. Rolph	C. H. Williams	S. W. Plumb
H. W. Lukins	Philip Saunders	O. B. Ryon



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# PROGRESS OF STREATOR

## PITHY AND POINTED RECITAL OF CAUSES THAT MADE IT GROW.

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Here are revealed the causes of Streator's progress and prosperity, past, present and future.

1- COAL. It was born out of the coal beds. On this strong and substantial foundation was raised a vigorous and intelligent stock of miners, who formed the first layer of its population.

2- GLASS. On this solid substructure of coal was reared the glass industry, which brought in a large number of highly skilled and highly paid operatives from the Old World. The stream from the pay roll of the glass works never ceased to flow, whatever drought or panic afflicted the business world. It nourished the town through dull and busy years and kept it alive and growing.

3- SHALE. Another gift of Mother Earth were the shale beds, perhaps the most precious of all. They gave products of paying brick, building blocks, sewer pipe and tile, and called in a large force of men for their development and manufacture.

4- RAILROADS. The carrying of the vast amount of freight originating here brought in five great systems of railroads, with their switch crews, their yard and office men running up into the hundreds.

5- FREIGHT RATES. But the railroads did more. With their enormously extended systems they put Streator in direct contact with nearly every state in the union without leaving the original line; and their competition brought Streator a freight rate as good or better than Chicago.

6- PERMANENCE. The permanence of the three foundation industries is assured because: (1) The coal is here and must be mined; (2) the proximity to fuel and the best silica sand in the world make this the best point in America to manufacture glass; and (3) there is no better shale on the continent, and none nearer to the best market.

7- MANUFACTURE. The motives that induced the planting here of the Crawford Locomotive and Car Company, the Vulcan Detinning Company, the Automobile and Metal Stamping Works will bring other wood and metal working concerns to Streator.

8- LOCATION. Streator is situated at the northern extremity of the coal and shale beds, and has the advantage of distance to the markets of Chicago and the north. Seated at the door of the great northwest, in the heart of the Mississippi Valley—a region destined to be the granary of the world and its greatest consumer of manufactured goods—Streator, with its railroads gridironing this vast territory, is bound to become a centre of manufacture and distribution.

9- LABOR. Trades in Streator are organized, intelligent, and conservative, and the workmen largely own their own homes. This is especially true of the miners and glass workers, who are the dominant influence in labor matters. Very rarely has there been a strike or labor trouble, usually only when there has been a national suspension. Being only 93 miles from Chicago, with its vast supply, employers can readily get any additional help required, whether skilled or unskilled. The lower cost of living makes it an attractive place for workmen to come to from the large cities.

10- PROGRESS. Its progress is mainly indigenous. Unlike towns created by corporations, such as Pullman or Gary, or those which have bought their growth by bonuses, Streator's progress has been spontaneous, unforced and unpurchased. Its industries have been started mainly by its own citizens. The money to establish them was made here, and the profits re-invested in the extension of the business, or in the starting of new enterprises.

11- PEOPLE. Its business men are aggressive, progressive, liberal. The first generation—the men who made the town—are still in command. There are no idle rich; there is no

idle capital. There are better fields for feeble industries seeking homes than Streator, but there is no place where a healthy business, however small, would have heartier encouragement, or have a surer prospect of a safe, strong and vigorous growth.

12 OPPORTUNITY. Its opportunities are unexhausted. The natural resources which produced such splendid results without the aid of outside capital are still here. They are a standing invitation to men of means and enter-

prise to develop them. Thousands of acres of shale, as good as any that have been worked, are still untouched. The advantages which made Streator one of the greatest glass producers in the west are undiminished. The railroad facilities which have attracted manufacturers seeking locations, are better than ever. And its citizens stand ready to share these opportunities with whosoever wishes to come here and co-operate with them in the making of a bigger and better Streator.



A View of the City Park.

# THE INDUSTRIES OF STREATOR

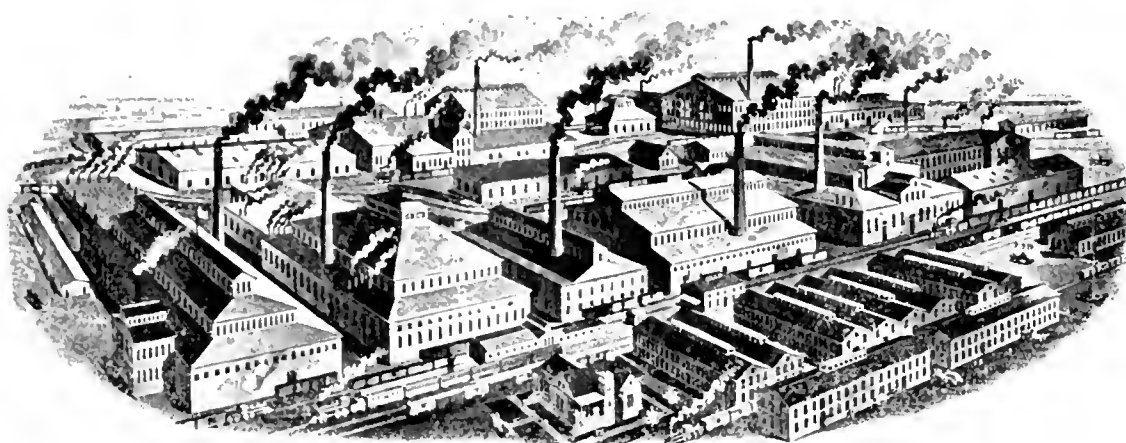
Its Factories and Mines—Leading Workers in Glass, Coal, Clay, Metal and Wood.

Streator is a city of factories and mines. It is essentially an industrial town. It prospers by the prosperity of its producers, by the energy and enterprise of its manufacturers. Were the busy hands to stop working in factory or mine its pulsing heart would stop beating. Were the brains of its captains of industry to stop energizing and directing there would be no production, no wages, no one to buy and sell. For Streator has no accumulated wealth, no inherited fortunes, no leisure class to support it through a period of idleness. It is a town of workers. Everybody must listen when the whistle blows for work. It is the good fortune of the town that there have been very few serious interruptions of that cheerful sound for the past forty years, and it is the hope of its future that the morning chorus of whistles will

grow larger and stronger, with more diversified tones and with ever increasing volume.

Streator's principal monuments are her mines and factories. On the prosperity of her workers in coal and glass, in shale and metal and wood, her existence absolutely depends. It is fitting therefore that in a work telling "The Story of Streator" the most prominent position should be given to those interests on which the town is fundamentally based.

Accordingly the opening pages of this book are devoted to a description of its leading industries. In the preceding paragraphs they have been treated briefly for the eye of the casual reader, but in the pages that follow they will be described and illustrated at greater length, and in a manner more befitting their importance.



Assembled View of American Bottle Co.'s Works.

# STREATOR'S GLASS INDUSTRIES

LEAD ALL OTHERS IN NUMBER OF WORKMEN AND VALUE OF PRODUCTS.

Glass making has for some years been the leading industry of Streator, whether measured by the number of men employed, the value of the product, or the size of the pay roll. It is an indigenous industry, that is, it is not imported, but native to the soil. It began here some 30 years ago with the efforts of some local capitalists to build factories to promote the growth of the town. It started without experienced managers, and, with the vicissitudes attending so highly technical an industry it is a wonder that the industry ever survived its early experiments. That it did survive argues that Streator must have had great natural advantages for the glass business.

Today there are three important glass plants in Streator, making respectively, water, beer and soda bottles, milk jars and rolled plate glass. Between 2,000 and 3,000 men are employed when the factories are running at their maximum capacity. The indications are that this industry will continue to grow. Only recently the milk jar factory was erected, and since building they have found it necessary to double their plant. The American Bottle Company has built a new factory, and the Western Glass Company has made additions to its plant. All are prospering, and the growth of the business to its present magnitude is the best pos-

sible evidence of the superiority of Streator as a glass manufacturing centre.

## President Jack's Statement.

Were any further testimony needed it is furnished by Mr. M. W. Jack, president of the American Bottle Company, the greatest producer of glass bottles in the world, and which has half a dozen factories in different states. Being asked his opinion of the advantages of Streator as a glass making point Mr. Jack replied:

"I should say the advantages of Streator as a glass producing centre are three-fold, namely:

"1—Its local fuel supply. Streator coal has been one of our great advantages.

"2—Its nearness to an inexhaustible supply of the best sand in the world for glass making.

"3—Its central location between east and west, and its excellent railroad facilities, make this an extremely desirable point for our business.

"In my judgment Streator has very few equals and no superiors in the United States as a location for glass making."

After this emphatic statement from one of the best authorities in America on glass making, nothing can be added to shed more light on the glass situation.

## THE AMERICAN BOTTLE COMPANY

The American Bottle Company is the largest producer of bottles in the world. Its parent plant is situated in Streator. The Company also has factories at Belleville, Ill., Newark, Ohio, Massillon, Ohio, and Wooster, Ohio. The capacity of the Streator plant is five thousand gross per day, or nearly 2,000,000 gross per year.

It gives employment to 1,800 men when run-

ning full time. The kind of ware made is principally beer bottles, water and soda bottles. The product is shipped to nearly every state in the union, as far east as New York, west to California, north to Canada, and south to New Orleans. It is also exported to Mexico, Cuba, Vancouver, and to the British possessions. In quality the product stands in a class by itself. It has no equal in the world. The demand for

it has required a constant increase of output from year to year, and the prospect is that it will continue to grow even greater.

#### Extent of Plant.

The plant is enormous in extent, the vast requirement for storage of bottles calling for a great number of warehouses. It covers in all about fifty acres of ground for factory buildings; which enclose twelve large tank furnaces. The last factory erected is of steel and iron with concrete floors, of the most modern fire-resisting construction. It is 425 feet long by 265 feet wide, and contains six tank furnaces which supply twelve Owens Automatic Process bottle blowing machines.

was venturesome and sagacious enough to line up with the winning machine would be the one that would survive; and those who found out too late, or who lacked the capital or courage to adopt the new invention, would be down and out. The American Bottle Company had the foresight to see that the Owens' machine was a success, and the result has proved the soundness of its judgment. Had it failed to rise to its opportunity, the glass industry in Streator would in time have become a thing of the past. As it is its permanence is assured for many generations to come. While it is true that the new process will displace skilled labor to a considerable extent, yet there is assurance that



#### Its Future Is Assured.

During their 30 years of operation in Streator the bottle factories have been the sure reliance of the town. Panics came and went, but the pay roll of the bottle works went on, giving a steady support to the business interests of the city. When the revolution in the manufacture of bottles threatened to destroy the industry in its old form, it was fortunate for Streator that its factories were in the hands of a company strong enough and enterprising enough to protect its plants. In the natural course of events it was inevitable that machinery should be introduced, and the concern that

hand-blown bottles will be made here for a long time.

#### Executive Staff of the Company.

The American Bottle Company was formed by the consolidation in 1906 of the Streator Bottle & Glass Company with certain eastern interests, and was capitalized at \$10,000,000. Mr. M. W. Jack, of the Streator Company, was made president, and Mr. E. H. Everett, who had been identified with the bottle industry for 30 years, and who was the leading spirit in the eastern factories, became General Manager and Chairman of the Executive Board.

Mr. L. S. Stoehr, also a representative of the

Western interests, became vice president and assistant general manager. He was succeeded as vice president later by Mr. H. G. Phillips, who was promoted from the position of auditor. Mr. Stoehr retains the position of director.

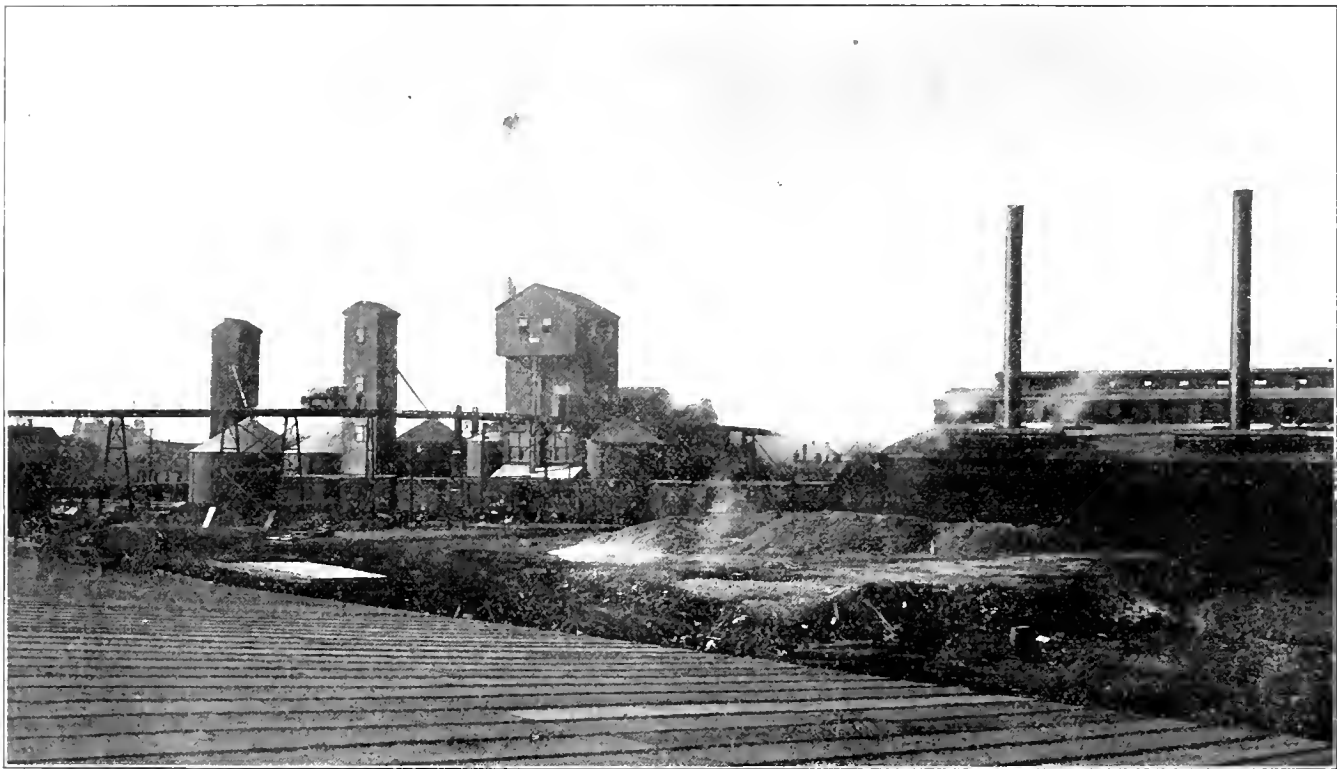
#### Promotion Policy of Company.

The character of the Streator branch of the company may be judged by the kind and quality of men it has promoted to high positions. Not one of the men now holding its positions of responsibility and authority but has been with it for many years, and been advanced from a subordinate place in the ranks.

A conspicuous example is Mr. W. J. Crane,

No review of the Streator staff would be complete that did not mention the name of the late John C. Evans, the aggressive and forceful superintendent of the factories. Mr. Evans entered the service of the company at its beginning as a carrier boy and worked his way up until in 1893 he was appointed superintendent, which position he filled for eighteen years, until his recent death.

He was succeeded as superintendent by W. H. Jennings, also a graduate of the company's own training. He entered its employ as a clerk in 1889, and has been with the company for 22 years, during the latter period having full charge of the office. Mr. Evans' untimely



Secretary of the company, with headquarters at Chicago. Mr. Crane is a Streator boy, who went into the local office many years ago as bookkeeper. He made himself a master of the financial side of the business, and by devoted attention to the interests of the company became so invaluable that he was made its secretary. His present high office was a natural sequel when the consolidation took place.

Mr. Frank A. Waters is another Streator boy who entered the local office as bookkeeper. He too "made good," and his qualities were recognized by making him Assistant Treasurer of the American Bottle Company when the change was made.

end left the operating force like an army whose general had been shot down in battle. Mr. Jennings became superintendent, and though the situation was made very critical by new methods and processes, his command of the situation was so complete that the great organization moved as smoothly and even more efficiently than before. His long training with the company and his own abilities gave him thorough mastery of a difficult situation and enabled him to grasp the opportunity when it arose.

Mr. Jennings is ably supported by his assistant, Mr. Geo. E. Sopher, Assistant Superintendent of the Company. Mr. Sopher is an

other example of the prevailing system, having risen through years of service from a lower to a higher position.

#### Personal Factors in Success.

In enumerating the personal factors which have contributed to the company's success the name of W. F. Modes calls for recognition. Mr. Modes was superintendent from 1883 to 1893, and was an expert in the making and managing of continuous tank furnaces. The tank furnace was a great improvement on the pot furnace that preceded it, and Mr. Modes' knowledge was of great service in keeping the company in the front line of progress in glass

making.

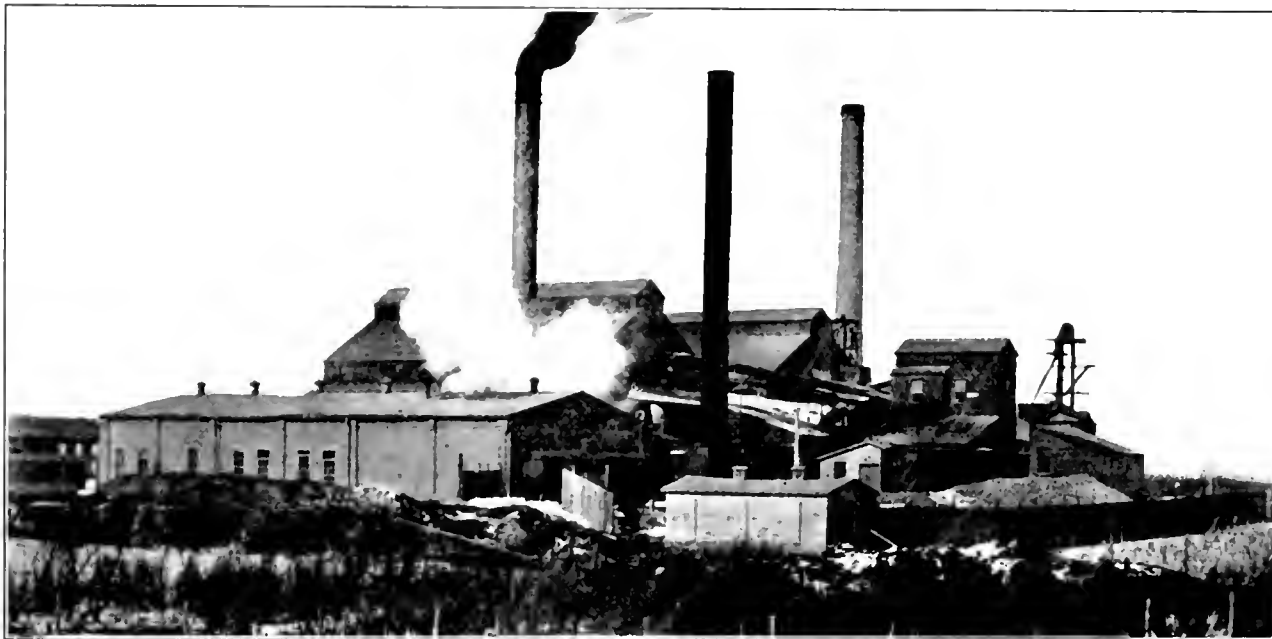
The success of an industry is the success of its leading spirits. This is true in a special and unique way of the bottle company, and the writer has felt that the story of this corporation's success could in no way be so interestingly and adequately told as by a review of the men who have made its success possible.

From President Jack, who is the oldest employee in point of service to the latest recruit, every man feels that merit will win recognition, and the result is shown in the splendid executive staff whose service the company now enjoys.

## THATCHER MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Youngest among Streator's glass factories is the plant of the Thatcher Manufacturing Company. Unlike its neighboring glass plants it is not the product of Streator initiative and enterprise. It is the Western branch of a company already established in the east. The

Being the most recent of the factories to be erected it is also among the most modern in its structure and equipment. Every principle of the most up-to-date factory construction has been taken advantage of and all waste hand labor and lost motion has been eliminated as



View of Thatcher Milk Bottle Plant.

Streator branch has had a vigorous growth, however, and now equals in size its parent plant. It was built in 1909 as a one-furnace factory and the capacity was doubled in 1911, when another furnace was added.

far as possible by the application of modern scientific processes. From the time the raw materials enter the factory until the finished product is delivered in the warehouse it is carried along its journey by automatic machinery

and scarcely touched by hand at any point. The materials for the making of glass are received on their entrance to the factory by a power shovel. They are carried to their bins by conveyors, the batch is mixed and the proportion of sand, soda-ash, lime and nitrate of soda is accurately weighed by automatic process. It is conveyed to the furnace and melted by producer gas, and the liquid glass is sucked up by the vacuum pump attached to the Owens' machine, and that wonderful machine converts the molten mass into a finished and perfect glass jar. Without being touched by hand the red hot jar is carried to the lehrs, where it is annealed, and from there conveyed by automatic carrier to the warehouse. Had George Eliot seen this marvel of automatism she would have realized that her dream of a mechanical age in "Theophrastus Such" had arrived.

#### Superiority of Machine Product.

The Thatcher Manufacturing Company began its career in New York state as a manufacturer of butter color and cheese color and later became interested in the making of the milk jar caps known as the Common Sense Cap. This led it in the direction of the milk jar business, and it later became the greatest jobber of jars in the country. With the invention of the Owens' machine bottle blower it became apparent that the making of glass jars was about to be revolutionized, and that whoever obtained control of the invention would command the business. Already in command of a large proportion of the jobbing trade the Thatcher Manufacturing Company now felt impelled to engage in manufacturing, and in 1906 built their first furnace in Kane, Pennsylvania, and equipped it with the Owens' machine. Soon it became necessary to add another furnace, and now plans are being drawn for a third. Meantime two furnaces have been built in Streator, and the company has a capacity of 180,000 gross of jars per annum.

What is the reason for this remarkable success?

In a word, it is due to the superiority of the machine product over that produced by the old methods. Under the old system it was found impossible to make jars of uniform strength, thickness and capacity. Always there was some spot thinner than another, and human hand and eye found it difficult to make two jars of exactly the same capacity. These difficulties are all overcome by the machine jar, which makes each jar exactly alike and equally perfect. This uniformity is growing

of more importance daily as cities are requiring by ordinance that milk jars must conform to certain standards of size with a very small margin of variation.

#### Captured the Market.

With these advantages it is natural that the Thatcher milk bottle captured the market. The Streator product now supplies the greater share of the Chicago trade, and its market goes east as far as Ohio, west to the Pacific coast, and north into Canada. The south is just opening up for the milk jar trade and when it develops it will cause another expansion of the industry.



E. J. Pittman, Asst. Supt.

The officers are F. E. Baldwin, president; R. W. Niver, general superintendent; and E. J. Pittman, assistant superintendent in charge of the Streator factory. Mr. Pittman is an example of the typical American boy of today who by thorough technological training fitted himself early to take charge of an important factory. At the age of twenty-seven he is superintending with success the operations of a complicated industry and the labors of a hundred men.

Born in Syracuse, N. Y., in 1885, he had the usual common school training, finished in Elmira High School and Cazanovia Seminary,



then took a course in the L. C. Smith School of Applied Sciences, Syracuse University, and took degree of E. E. Was draftsman for an organ factory, then joined the forces of the Thatcher Manufacturing Company, and came to Streator for that company in 1909. In August 1911 was married to Miss E. Louise Shepard, Montour Falls, N. Y.

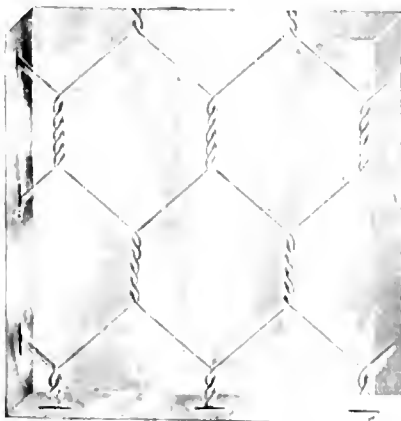
Asked why his company had located in Streator rather than some other town Mr. Pitt

man replied: "The company had in fact chosen another location, but being waited on by a committee of Streator citizens, who presented the advantages of Streator, the change was made. There was no boms. The superior railroad advantages, the local coal supply, and the proximity to abundance of good sand were the main considerations. It was a fortunate selection, and we are well satisfied here."

## THE WESTERN GLASS COMPANY

The Western Glass Company was organized in 1899 and is engaged in the manufacture of wire and rolled plate glass, largely used for fire retarding purposes.

At the present time the factory has an output of three million square feet of rolled plate glass annually. It covers four acres of ground and employs about one hundred men. The active heads of the company are C. E. Ryon, Secretary and Treasurer, and Clement Ingers, Superintendent. Mr. W. J. Williams is president.



Section of Wire Glass.

The trade of the company extends all over the United States and some of it is exported to foreign ports. About eighty per cent. of the wire glass used in the "loop district," Chicago last year was the product of The Western Glass Company. The company makes all kinds of skylight and figured glass, rough and polished wire glass, in fact specializes in the making of fire retarding glass products.

### Growth of Wire Glass Industry.

Among the most important measures urged

to reduce the fire waste is the employment of wire glass in construction. Wherever an outside window exposes a building to fire from an adjoining risk the requirement of the underwriters is that such a window, to be approved, should be protected by wire glass set in a metal shutter. It is a common experience that the heat from a burning building is intense enough to break the ordinary window glass across the street and set the structure on fire. The protection from such a danger urged by insurance men is that buildings be equipped with approved wired glass set in approved metal shutters. Even if the glass cracks the wire holds it in place and prevents the fire from entering.

Additional confirmation of the fire-retarding value of wired glass has been given recently by two great conflagrations in San Francisco and Baltimore. The former furnished the remarkable testimony of the California Electrical Works sent by wire after the earthquake conflagration to the Western Electric Company, of Chicago, saying:

"Our building stands like a monument in a desert saved by wire glass, watchman and water tanks."

### Approved By Insurance Experts.

Wired glass is now approved and required by insurance experts, engineers and factory associations. Albert Blanveldt, manager of the Western Factory Insurance Association, has gone so far as to say in a convention of fire prevention experts: "I think this subject of wire glass is the very one in which the best hopes of this association reside. It has impressed me that wire glass is the best material we have, because it has by far the best psychological position. Wire glass is a solid and visible piece of construction that appeals to the architect and property owner, and they will

spend their money on it, to my mind, with more freedom than on anything else. Cities are growing taller and bigger all over the country, and they are going to burn to a standstill before they get through. Fires will compel something to be done and something radical, sooner or later. If not in our day, then in our successors' day. I am becoming convinced that wire glass is the most feasible thing to present to the public, regardless of the expense—and I am going to work for it."

It is seldom that we recognize the forces of progress that come nearest us, and the foregoing facts are given to show how closely the interests of this industry are allied with one of the most important reforms now going on in this country. Even in the very home of wired glass it is doubtful if its values are as well

known as they should be by architects and builders, for some of the best structures recently erected show an absence of elementary knowledge of fire-retarding construction—especially in the matter of wired glass. Happily, however, the knowledge is spreading and the success of the industry is assured by the awakening conscience of builders all over the land. For the product of the Western Glass Company has found a high place in the estimation of conscientious architects and constructors everywhere; it has passed successfully the most rigorous underwriters' laboratory tests; and it has stood the more practical demonstration of actual trial by fire. In all it has emerged victorious, and won a place for the Streator product at the very head of the wired glass trade of America.



Main street, west from Sterling street.

# STREATOR'S SHALE BEDS

**PRONOUNCED ABSOLUTELY UNEQUALED FOR THE MAKING OF  
BRICK AND ALL SHALE PRODUCTS.**

More than in any other one industry the future of Streator is bound up in the single word—shale. Shale is to Streator what gold is to the Yukon, or silver is to Butte. It lies piled up in unmeasured millions of tons along the streams and water courses awaiting only the capital and the enterprise to develop it. During the brief period of its development large profits have been made, and great fortunes lie locked in the shale beds ready for the hand that shall open them. More certain than gold fields, more stable than oil wells, less precarious than coal mines, the shale industry offers an investment as durable as the use of brick, and as certain of profit as the great North-west is of expansion. With the increased use of shale brick for paving cities, villages and country roads, for building and other uses, and with Streator's unusual advantages, its position as a producer is destined to be second to none in the west.

Its pre-eminence as a producer of clay products is due to the advantages, namely:

1—**Situation.** Its situation as the extreme northern outcropping of the shale beds, and its consequent command of an unsupplied territory, which is the greatest market in the world—Chicago and the northwest.

2—**Raw Material.** The cheapness, extent and quality of its clay beds, together with superiority of product and economy of production.

3—**Freight Rates.** It costs two thirds of a cent per mile per ton to move brick to one of its greatest markets—Chicago. Its rate to that point is 65 cents per ton, which is 50 cents per thousand cheaper than its nearest competitor.

## Extent of Shale Beds.

Streator's shale deposits are superimposed on the coal measures and cover several thousand acres of territory. They are from 25 to 40 feet in thickness and are cleft from the surface of the ground to the coal seam by the Vermillion river, and by half a dozen tributary creeks, so that their faces are exposed and

made accessible for stripping for considerable distances along these streams. It is estimated that a factory making 100,000 brick daily will consume about one acre of shale in a year. At this rate it will be seen that these shale beds will last hundreds of years, and are practically inexhaustible.

The covering over the shale is of workable thickness and is removed by hydraulic process, by steam shovel, or by hand. The valleys created by the streams, which cut through the shale beds, furnish a convenient place for dumping the dirt at a minimum of cost. After the covering is stripped the shale itself is easily dug and loaded into cars ready for dumping into the grinding pan. The average cost of delivering the shale at the pan, including the cost of land, is estimated to be about 30 cents per ton.

During the early years of Streator's growth brick were made of surface clay, but in 1893 the first shale brick was made and since that time the surface clay is no longer used. The shale industry has developed rapidly until there are now four important factories making shale products, one of them employing 250 men. This growth is the best possible demonstration of the advantages of Streator as a manufacturer of shale products. The surface of this industry has been barely scratched as yet, and opportunities as promising as any that have been developed may be had by the score.

## Quality of Shale Products.

The products made from Streator shale are vitrified paving and building brick, drain tile and sewer pipe, the mixture for the latter being strengthened by the addition of a low grade fire clay, also found here. The characteristics of the brick are their strength, toughness, texture; their ability to stand wear, to be highly vitrified, to be non-absorbent, and to burn with a characteristic dark color. The shale is not tender or brittle, and does not need to be handled delicately in handling or burn-

ing. It has withstood the most severe scientific tests, rattler absorption and breaking strain, and its acceptance in cities like Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, attests its superior quality. Streater brick have been shipped to Winnipeg, Toronto and Duluth on the north, to Vicksburg, New Orleans and Panama on the south, and to Kansas City and Omaha on the west.

### **"Shale Absolutely Unequaled."**

Supt. Whiting, of the Streater Paving Brick Company, on being asked for an opinion said: "You can say Streater shale has got all other shales in the world beat. There are no better paving brick made on earth than are made here, and for number and variety of uses to which it can be put Streater shale is absolutely unequalled. For building brick, you can get any shade of color desired—red, medium, chocolate or black, and as fine a surface as was ever put on a face brick."

### **Potter's Clay and Fire Clay.**

One of the most promising of the undevel-

oped prospects is the potter's clay which has been discovered in great quantities three and a half miles from the city. Elaborate tests were made by the Streater Improvement Association and it was found superior in every test. It burns naturally a bright cherry red, and will take any kind of glaze. The expert tester tried it with pink, blue, green and other colors, and found every one to stand well.

It was tested by the Laclede Christy Clay Co., by the ceramic department at the state university and at the pottery at Macomb, Ill., and was found of fine quality, rich in kaolin, and fit for any of the uses to which potters' clay is put. At Mokena it was tested as a foundation for enameled brick and found satisfactory. The clay is found in a bed ten feet thick, covered by four feet of coal; it is abundant in quantity and easy of access.

A seam of low grade fire clay is found beneath the lower vein of coal, suitable for fire-proofing, sewer pipe and the like. It is mixed with shale and used by the Streater Clay Manufacturing Company in the making of sewer pipe.

## THE BARR CLAY COMPANY

The most important representative of the shale industry in Streater is the Barr Clay Company. Its plant is situated on the Vermilion River about one mile south of the city. The plant was established in 1893, and the first brick were made in 1894. It began with a capacity of 50,000 brick daily, which has increased until today it has a capacity of 200,000 brick daily. It owns 150 acres of good shale land, and employs when running full capacity, 300 to 325 men.

The growth of its business is the best evidence of the quality of its product. During the eighteen years of its existence its brick has won its way into the best markets in the west, and have passed the most severe tests. Great municipalities like Chicago and St. Louis have set the seal of their approval on the Barr brick. In the crucial absorption and rattler tests they have emerged victorious, in the latter sometimes passing as high as eleven per cent when the standard was twenty per cent.

About two years ago the capacity of the plant was doubled and the factory is now among the most modern and up-to-date in its

equipment in the west. It uses the waste heat system in drying, and burns its brick under reducing conditions. It operates its machinery by electric power, using a dynamo of 300 horse power, with which it runs its pumps, hoists, pug mill and its big brick machines, which are among the biggest and strongest made. The covering is stripped off its shale beds by hydraulic process, and by steam shovel. The shale itself is dug and loaded by a large 85-ton Bucyrus shovel.

The company is capitalized at \$600,000. Mr. C. C. Barr is president and principal stockholder.

### **Brick Paving for Country Roads.**

The product of the company is mainly used for paving purposes and is marketed in the west and northwest. The fact that Mr. Barr recently doubled his plant is evidence that he is an optimist on the future of brick paving. He sees the cities and villages of the middle west as inevitably bound to pave all of their streets sooner or later with vitrified brick, the most durable, the most practical, the most

economical material for the purpose. Not only that, but he sees the emergence of the country road from its long burial in the mud and the awakening of the farmers from their long lethargy. The coming of the automobile onto

the farm is going to make a demand for vitrified brick paving, which is going to grid-iron this country from one end to the other and make it as easy to travel and haul loads as it is in Europe.



A View of a Brick-Paved Road With Dirt Road Along Side of It

### Three Hundred Miles of Brick Roads.

The world is awakening to a realization of the necessity for better country roads. The average country road is a reflection upon our civilization. The condition is pardonable in districts where good paving material cannot be had, but where the finest grade of paving brick can be had and where the hauling expense is minimized, it is inexcusable.

Cuyahoga County, Ohio, has three hundred miles of brick-paved country roads and the people there are enthusiastic over the result.

At a meeting of the engineers of Cleveland, Ohio, recently Andrew B. Lee, County Engineer of Cuyahoga County, read a paper, and the following are extracts therefrom:

"In Cuyahoga County, Ohio, where I have

had experience in the construction of several hundred miles of pavement of different types, I found that the ideal pavement for country roads was brick.

Brick is the cheapest and best pavement that can be used, all things considered.

Some of the roads in that country were constructed twelve years ago, and Mr. Lee says that the upkeep since has cost practically nothing.

A clay road is built for today, or at least, until the next rainfall. A brick-paved road endures through the years.

Apart from the increased value of adjoining farm lands; apart from the cleanliness, the beauty, the quadruple utility and comfort, the brick road, when the cost of repairs is taken into account, is absolutely the cheapest."

## THE STREATOR CLAY MANUFACTURING COMPANY

The work of this company illustrates the variety as well as the extent of Streator's clay resources. Its product is made of fire clay

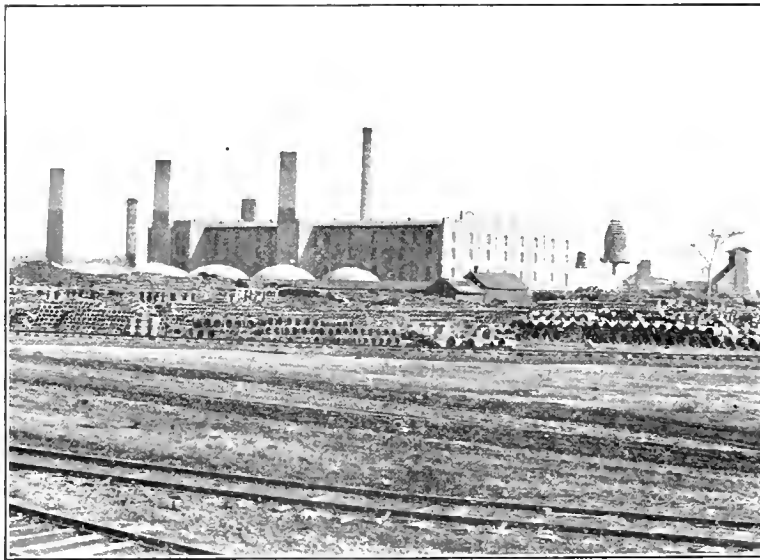
mined 230 feet below the surface. It specializes in double strength sewer pipe for municipal contracts; also makes fire clay flue lining.

and a vitrified wall coping which has a dark, rich color, which is largely used in Chicago. The product finds a ready market in Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas, so that the plant has been run without interruption to its full capacity since the inception of the present management. It has just obtained the contract to furnish the city of Minneapolis with sewer pipe for the current year.

The Streator sewer pipe is prized for its great strength and high quality. In many competitive tests it has scored heavily against its rivals by showing the lowest percentage of absorption of any of the pipe tested. The drain

superintendent.

The Streator Clay Manufacturing Company was organized by James L. Daugherty and his associates in 1892. They came from Ohio, and after thoroughly examining every other available location, decided to plant their factory in Streator. They operated it with success for sixteen years, when they sold the property to Mr. R. H. Green and his associates. The latter were among the largest sewer contractors in the west, having been awarded such contracts as the reconstruction of the La Salle street tunnel under the Chicago river, which they successfully completed. Their attention was at-



The Streator Clay Co.'s Plant.

tile made by this company is made of the same material as the sewer pipe, and therefore much superior to the tile made of other materials. It is made only in large sizes. The flue lining is also of fire clay, which gives it a value not to be found in the more common sort.

The plant of the company is located about a mile south of the city, and covers about fifteen acres. It employs about 165 men, and the output for the last year was 2,000 cars of ware. The value of the investment in Streator is \$300,000. The executive staff consists of R. H. Green, president and general manager; G. E. Connolly, assistant manager, and James Park,

traced to the superior quality of the Streator product, and so impressed were they by the advantages possessed that they bought the factory.

Just one year after they had become its owners the factory burned down. With characteristic vigor they went at the work of rebuilding, and within six months from the time of the fire they had the factory rebuilt and running with double its former capacity. The kiln capacity was also doubled and they now have an output of 2,000 cars of ware per year, and a demand for it all that keeps the factory in continuous operation.



## THE STREATOR PAVING BRICK COMPANY

The Streator Paving Brick Company was formed by the consolidation of the Streator Tile Works, the Eagle Clay Company and the Streator Brick Works. These were the pioneer brick works of the town, the oldest of them being organized in 1881. The men who were the leading spirits in these pioneer factories remain with the present organization, and give to it a brick making experience of over thirty years in Streator.

The present factory was rebuilt and enlarged in 1911-1912, and is splendidly housed and equipped, with the best known appliances for economic production. Although originally designed for the manufacture of paving brick, the demand for its product for building purposes grew so great that the larger share of its output is now used as face brick for fire buildings in Chicago and the north west.

Among the striking structures in which the brick of this company are used are the front of the new Cort Theatre, Chicago; the wholesale grocery warehouse building of W. M. Hoyt Company; the office building of Ginn & Co., printers; the Kohlsatt bakery building, on Washash Avenue; and the building of the Rogers & Hall, printers. These are of fine architectural proportions and illustrate the new use of colored shale brick in the finer forms of building in Chicago. The product of this company is also in demand for the finer sort of residence and apartment buildings. One of the most unique examples is "The Bables," one of the

finest apartment buildings in the city, with sun parlors, private ball rooms, and many novel features. The private residence of Mr. Joy Morton on the Lake Shore Drive is built of these brick, as are many other of the best homes in Chicago.

The special features for which these brick are noted are their fine colors and shades, ranging from the lighter reds to the deep browns, chocolates and even blacks; the artistic use of which give warm and agreeable blendings of color which are much sought after by modern architects and builders. These special color effects have given a wide demand for these brick, and they have been shipped as far east as Washington, D. C., and as far west as Holdrege, Nebraska. On the north they have been sold in Winnipeg, Canada, and on the south in Vicksburg, Miss. Of course they have been largely used at home, and such fine public buildings as the Grant school, the New Elks' building, the Postoffice, St. Anthony's church, the Christian church, the German Evangelical church are faced with them.

Among the fine Streator residences using the rare color effects of these brick for facing are the new Dr. Dorsey home, the new suburban residence of F. Plumb, the new A. Anderson house, and many others.

The officers of the Streator Paving Brick Company are F. Plumb, president; E. F. Plumb, vice president; George Goulding, secretary and treasurer; Frank Whiting, superintendent.



# STREATOR'S COAL MINES

SECOND INDUSTRY OF CITY IN POINT OF MAGNITUDE.

Coal mining was for many years the dominant industry of Streator, and only within the past decade has it been obliged to take second place by reason of the great extension of the glass business. There are two workable seams of coal in Streator, known popularly as the top vein and the third vein, and geologically designated as No. 7 and No. 2 respectively. The top vein is from five to six feet in thickness. It is remarkably rich in carbon and greatly sought for as a steam coal. The mining of this seam was the main industrial support of the town for the first twenty years of its existence, but the field is limited in area, and although there is plenty to supply local demands for many years to come, its use as a shipping coal will be less extensive in the future. There are a number of locations for mines in this seam remaining, and the C. W. & V. Coal Company is just now prospecting one of 320 acres.

The pre-eminence of the top vein hindered the development of the lower vein for many years, although it had been the main staple in coal production in the other mining districts in Northern Illinois. But now, with the diminishing production in the upper vein, recourse is being had to the lower, and the leading coal

company is now operating its most important mine in that seam.

The third vein has the advantage of being practically inexhaustible. It is estimated that there is not less than 25,000 acres of workable third vein coal in and about Streator. It is worked on the "long wall" plan, and the pay roll of the mine now operating indicates that the earning power of the miners is greater than in the thicker seam. The quality of the coal is demonstrated by one of its chief users, the C. B. & Q. R. R., whose fuel inspector has just stated that it is "the best engine coal they have ever had from Northern Illinois."

President T. A. Lemmon, of the C. W. & V. Coal Company, which has been operating the lower vein mine for a number of years, says: "We have 5,000 acres of that coal in and about Streator, and we mean to take out every acre of it." This guarantees that Streator will be an important coal producing point for many decades.

At the present time there are fourteen mines in operation, which give employment to about 1,000 men, the principal producers being the Chicago, Wilmington & Vermillion and the Acme Coal Companies.

## CHICAGO, WILMINGTON & VERMILLION COAL COMPANY

The Vermillion Coal Company was the pioneer in the mining industry in Streator. It opened here the first shipping mines, and was instrumental in promoting the first lines of railroad to carry its coal to the market. Col. Ralph Plumb, revered as the founder and benefactor of the town, was the first general manager, and its early development was conducted under his direction. Its first opening was a drift in the side of the bluff, near the Vermillion River, on a site now covered by the West Factory of the American Bottle Company,

which later came to be known as the "Old Slope."

In 1872 the Vermillion Coal Company was consolidated with other coal interests, and has been known since as the Chicago, Wilmington & Vermillion Coal Company. In those days Streator was distinctively a mining camp, the superintendent and foremen of the mines were the leading citizens, and the coal company was influential in shaping the destiny of the town. It may be put down to its credit that it used its influence wisely and justly, and that the city has



little to regret and much to be grateful for to the corporation which wielded such a preponderant influence in its early days.

#### **Fair Treatment of Employees.**

Especially is it indebted to the company for its fair and considerate treatment of its employees at a time when such organizations as the United Mine Workers were unformed, and there was no weapon of defense for the miner except the individual strike. It maintained a consistent policy of high prices for Streator coal and good wages for its men, and it resulted in giving its collieries a reputation for good work, good pay, good treatment, that drew to Streator the best class of miners to be found in the country. It attracted also intelligent miners from Great Britain, and these men and their descendants have given to Streator the steady, intelligent, conservative workingman, which has been the solid sub-structure of its citizenry.

This policy of the "square deal" proved as profitable to the company as to the workmen and the town. The coal business prospered, for twenty years the C. W. & V. Co. sent a monthly pay roll of \$50,000 circulating through the financial arteries of the town, the miners built their homes, figured on school boards and town councils and became its respected citizens. For a period of twelve years there was not a strike or labor trouble. Two casualties interrupted the even flow of events: (1) Prairie Creek broke through into No. 1 shaft and had to be diverted into a new channel at a great expense; and (2) the explosion of a powder magazine shocked the town and destroyed a number of houses. The company settled the losses without litigation.

The presiding genius in the affairs of the C. W. & V. Coal Company during these years was Mr. A. L. Sweet, whose years and experience make him the nestor among the coal men of Illinois. His right hand man was Mr. T. A. Lemmon, who has since been promoted to the presidency, while Mr. Sweet has become chairman of the board. During the same years the man responsible for local conditions was Supt. W. S. Cherry, and it was to his strong character and fine personality that the success of the company in Streator is due. The present superintendent is Mr. C. A. Herbert.

#### **Present Output and Promise.**

At the present time the C. W. & V. Coal Company is operating two mines in Streator, one in the upper and one in the lower vein. They are mining about 1200 tons per day, which they expect to increase as the new mine develops. They still own about 5,000 acres of upper vein coal in Streator, which President Lemmon says will all be mined. They are mining it now at the rate of fifty acres per year, and if this rate is not increased it can be readily seen its acreage will last a hundred years.

The company also operates a large mine at Thayer, Ill., and is about to open one of the largest mines in the state at Orient, in Franklin County. There it has purchased 6,000 acres of coal eleven feet in thickness, on which it has sunk a shaft 514 feet deep, equipped with the most approved modern mining machinery. Its Streator superintendent, Mr. C. A. Herbert, has been appointed to take charge of this important work, and will direct its development and operation.

## THE ACME COAL COMPANY

One of the important mining corporations of Streator is The Acme Coal Company. It has been operating extensively in the top, or No. 7 seam, for the past twenty years, and has been a prominent factor, especially in the local trade. Its mine is situated at the edge of the city limits, and it has been favorably situated to supply the demand of local factories and residences.

The mine was opened originally in 1892 by Robert Fairbairn, Sr. and Edward Atkinson. Both partners were representative of the best type of English miners who migrated to Strea-

tor at an early day. They worked in the mines and with their own hands dug the foundations of their future competencies. After years of industry and thrift they went into business on their own account, and after trying different enterprises united their fortunes in the mine now known as the "Acme."

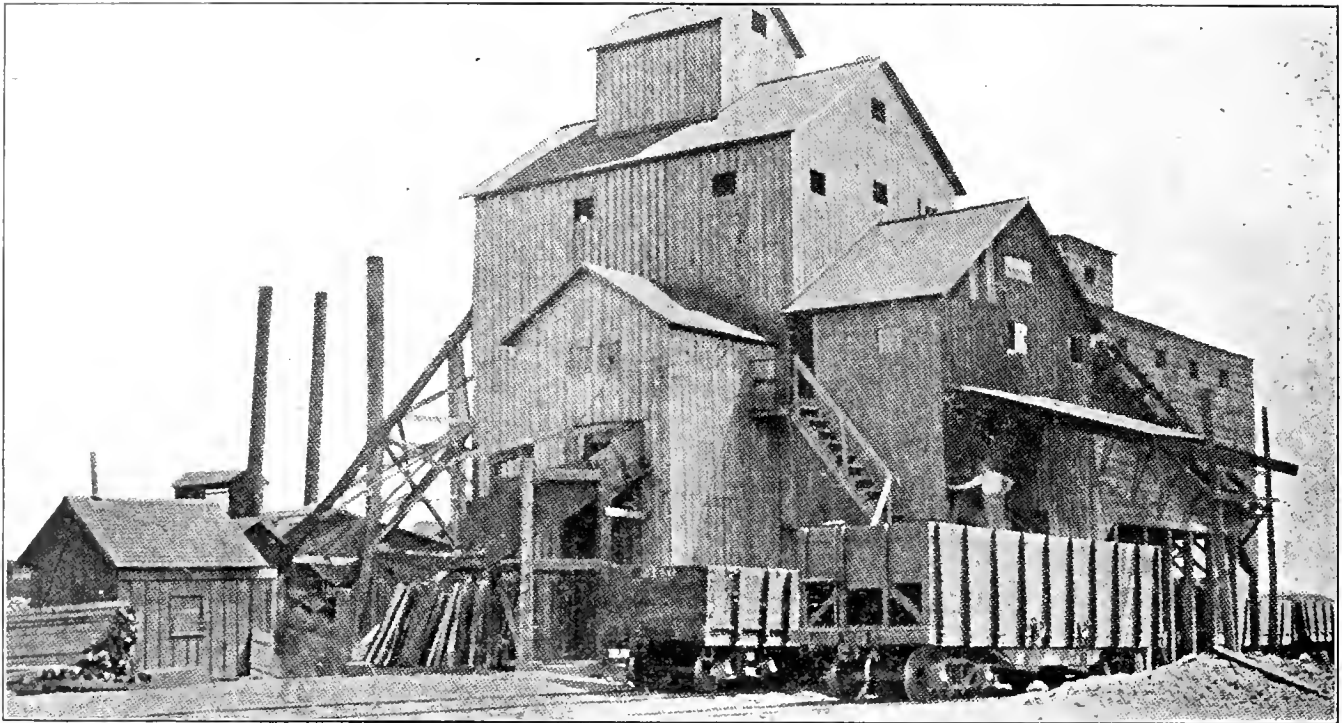
In 1893 the partnership was changed to a corporation known as "The Acme Coal Company," with James Condren as president, Robert Fairbairn, vice president, and Edward Atkinson as superintendent. During the twenty years that followed the company prospered, the

mine outgrew the original idea of its founders, railroad connections with the Santa Fe and Chicago & Alton were established, and it became an important shipping mine. In that time about 400 acres, or approximately 2,800,000 tons of coal have been mined by the company.

In the evolution of the coal trade the preparation of the product for the market has come to be a prime necessity. While in the

was sorted into three sizes, lump, nut and washed screenings. The washed coals found a ready market and became favorites in the trade. The market of the Acme product has been the territory between Streator and Chicago, and, largely, the local factories, which consume a large amount of fuel. The Santa Fe railroad, also, has been a large buyer of Acme coal.

When the original founder, Robert Fair-



The Acme Coal Company Plant.

early days the trade would accept anything that looked black, it has steadily grown more critical and now demands the most careful cleaning, sorting and sizing of the product. The Acme Coal Company has been one of the pioneers in the special preparation of its product. It early established a coal washing plant, in which its product was subjected to a thorough treatment by which the impurities were washed away from the coal. The product

bairn, Sr., of the Acme, retired from active business, the management passed into the competent hands of his sons, Thomas and Robert J. Fairbairn, the former being president, and the latter being secretary and treasurer of the company. They have another mine at Fairview, Ill., and have some other coal interests of great magnitude in which they are about to engage.

## THE ILLINOIS SELLING COMPANY

Streator is situated in the great Corn Belt, in the heart of one of the most fertile agricultural regions in the world. It is to this fact that it owes its selection by the Illinois Selling Company as the location for its canning factory. Last year they packed 2,500,000 cans of corn, and expect to increase the capacity of the plant this year. The factory operates only in the summer time during the ripening of the crop, but it gives employment to between 400 and 500 people during this time, many of whom would not otherwise be employed.

The factory is of great benefit to the farmers of the vicinity, to whom it furnishes a welcome variation of crop at a good price. Last year it contracted for the product of 1,500 acres of land, and expects to extend its con-



tracts during the coming year. The company furnishes its own seed to the farmers and agrees to take the product at a given price. Two varieties of sweet corn are raised, and they pay for the one at the rate of \$8.00 and the other at the rate of \$10.00 per ton. From four to five tons have been raised per acre. In addition to the price for his corn the farmer retains the fodder which is valuable for rough feed in the winter. The land is benefited by a crop of sweet corn because it is picked before it is matured, and is therefore not so exhaustive of the soil; and probably it is for this reason that a

crop of oats will yield five to eight bushel to the acre more after a crop of sweet corn than after the ordinary variety. Farmers also find it advantageous because the time of picking sweet corn comes in the fall that usually comes between thrashing and corn husking.

The process used in the factory is the latest and most approved. It is husked by hand, after which the process is all mechanical. The silk is removed and the corn is cut by machinery. After this it goes to the mixer, where it is flavored with sugar and salt, and heated to a temperature of 185 degrees. From here it goes into the cans, which are automatically capped and soldered, the corn never being touched the while by human hands. The soldering machine has a capacity of over a can a second. From here the corn goes to great retorts, each capable of cooking one thousand cans at a time, and



there sterilized at 250 degrees of heat for 80 minutes. Then the cans are cooled and ready for storage or shipment.

Their advertised brand is "Sweetheart," which is pre-eminent for flavor and quality, and regarded as the finest sweet corn on the market. It is of the "Country Gentleman" variety, and it obtains its rare quality by being gathered and packed at the exact time when its flavor is finest.

It is universally popular and is sold all over the United States, being as much a favorite in New England as on the Pacific Slope, where it is as largely sold as it is in its native state of Illinois.

The president of the Illinois Selling Company is Mr. Charles S. Crary; the secretary is Mr. John L. Freeman, and the efficient local superintendent is Mr. A. E. Newman.

## THE CRAWFORD LOCOMOTIVE AND CAR COMPANY

Streator's most important acquisition in recent years is the factory of the Crawford Locomotive and Car Company. This factory has employed in "rush" times as high as 1,000 men; and it has a magnificent modern plant nearly covering its tract of thirty acres with buildings, tracks and material yards. It came to Streator in 1906, and the most remarkable thing about its coming is that it came without one penny of bonus of any sort, either in cash or land.

The story as told by Mr. Crawford, its founder, is that he had been visiting Galesburg,

and rebuilt 5,000 cars. Its specialty is rebuilding and re-enforcing freight cars, providing steel underframes, and wooden bodies. It has lately, however, constructed two experimental steel passenger cars under plans and specifications from the Santa Fe railroad, which are being operated successfully.

The factory is supplied with the best modern up-to-date equipment in the way of machinery and tools. Its power plant is unsurpassed. It uses power in four forms—steam, electricity, air and hydraulic. A massive 1,000 horse power Ball compound engine furnishes



Panoramic View of the Crawford

where he was being offered a site and a bonus, and on his return stopped off at Streator with an acquaintance who had some business here. While in the city he met Messrs. Reeves and Ryon, President and Secretary of the Improvement Association, who drove him over the town and explained to him its advantages. He was so impressed with its location as a railroad centre that he decided to establish his factory here.

Building began at once. Mr. Crawford had a contract from the Santa Fe for repairing a large number of cars, and with this as a foundation he was able to command the capital necessary to erect his plant. The factory was first built with a capacity of handling ten cars a day, then increased to sixteen cars per day, and then to twenty-five per day, which is its present capacity. During the past five years it has built the steel underframes for 8,000 cars,

the driving force, which is converted into current by a Western Electric generator, and into compressed air by Bury Compressors. A water purifier purifies the water before it enters the great battery of boilers.

In the factory the various forms of power are used to run mechanical devices and labor-saving tools of all kinds. Steam is carried in pipes to run the steam and trip hammers; compressed air conducted to run the pneumatic tools; electricity to run motors for driving machinery, and the great wheel press with a capacity of 300 tons pressure is run by hydraulic power. There are lathes, borers, riveters, punches in profusion, one punch being powerful enough to punch a two and a half inch hole through a plate of steel three-quarters of an inch thick. The factory is the only one in Streator that owns its own switch engine. It

also has its own locomotive crane, which is a locomotive with a crane attached.

The main building is 800 feet long by 128 feet wide. The power plant is separately housed, and there are other buildings for storage, shops, offices, etc., so that there are about ten acres under roof. In the near future will be built another big building especially equipped for the manufacture of steel cars. This building will be 600 feet long by 80 feet wide. One of the special features of its equipment will be a steel traveling crane powerful enough to pick up a steel car and move it to any part of the building.

The most of the business of the company has hitherto come from the Santa Fe railroad, but it is equipped to do business on favorable terms with any railroads in the middle west.

A yard system in Chicago is so complicated and traffic so congested that it takes a long time to get a 'bad order' car through, while we have free and unobstructed access to practically every road in the west and can get quick action on the work. Then Streator is a great transfer point; also a mining centre, which causes a great number of coal cars to be sent here. I am well satisfied with our location. We can do repair work here in competition with any factory between Buffalo and Kansas City; and on new car work we can compete successfully with any factory in the United States."

President E. P. Ripley, of the Santa Fe system, speaking to officials of the Streator Commercial Club, said on one occasion: "We have a great deal of work done by the Crawford Lo-



Locomotive and Car Co. Plant.

At present it is working on a large contract from the Detroit, Toledo and Ironton Railway Co. This is the third contract from that company, although its headquarters are at Detroit, where there are large car shops in operation; also working on a large order of steel center sills for the C. B. & Q. R. R.

Being asked his opinion about Streator as a location for his business, Mr. Crawford replied: "It is unsurpassed. There is no better location in the west. The large number of railroads centering here makes it an easy place to reach with 'bad order' cars. There is the C. I. & S., which operates as an outer belt for nearly all the lines entering Chicago. Why, we can repair a car here and get it back to its road before it can as much as reach the repair shops in Chi-

cago. A yard system in Chicago is so complicated and traffic so congested that it takes a long time to get a 'bad order' car through, while we have free and unobstructed access to practically every road in the west and can get quick action on the work. Then Streator is a great transfer point; also a mining centre, which causes a great number of coal cars to be sent here. I am well satisfied with our location. We can do repair work here in competition with any factory between Buffalo and Kansas City; and on new car work we can compete successfully with any factory in the United States."

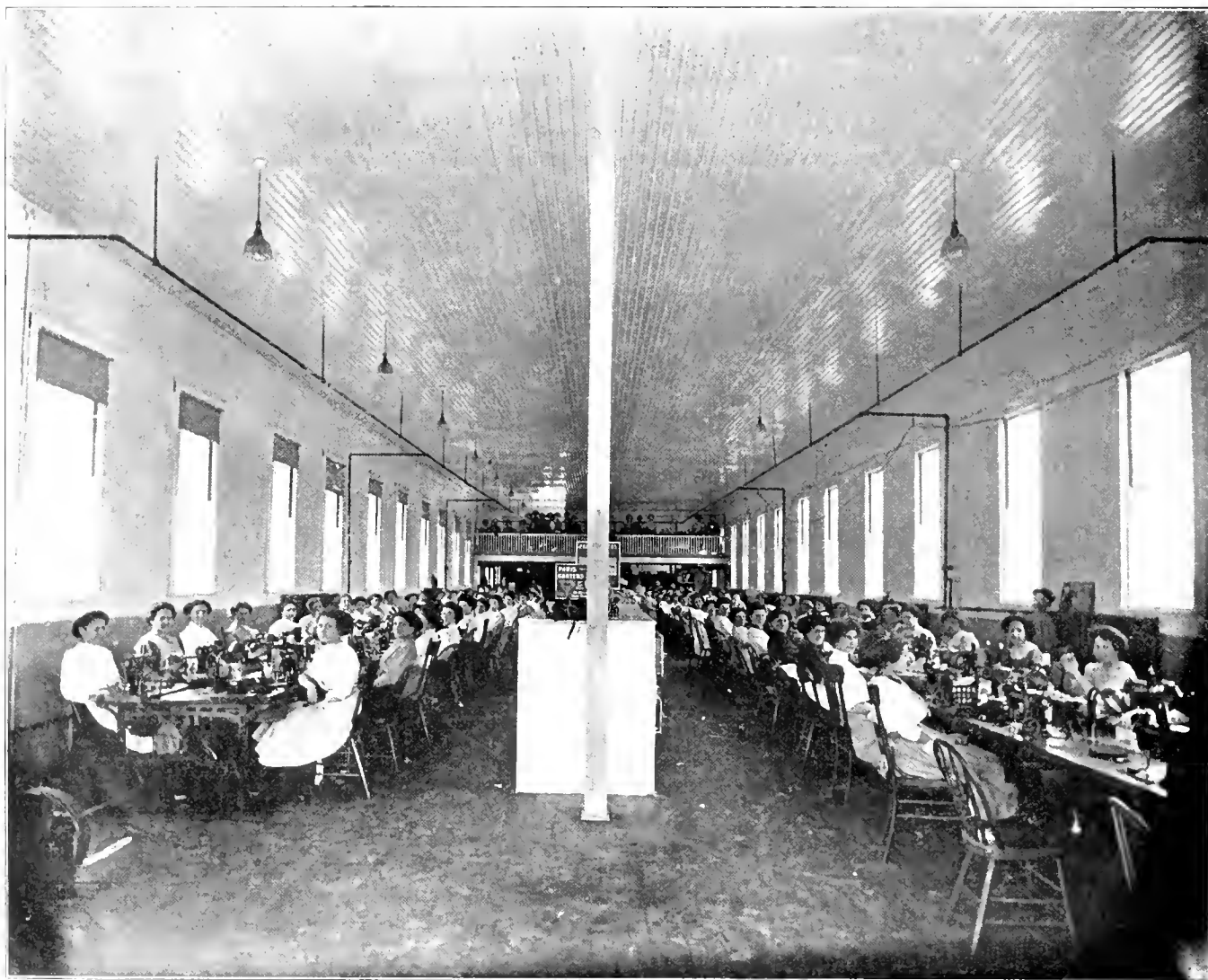
The president, treasurer and principal stockholder of the company is Mr. R. W. Crawford. He is also its active and actual head in all departments. The vice-president and general counsel is Mr. P. J. Lucey. William J. Ball is assistant to the president and mechanical engineer; A. M. Oliver, secretary; Z. Courtney, assistant secretary and treasurer; H. L. Reynolds, superintendent. The corporation is capitalized at \$1,000,000.

## THE HOBAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY

The one institution in Streator devoted to the work of women is the factory of the Hoban Manufacturing Company. In many ways it represents the spirit of the new age. It illustrates the world-wide movement of the passing of women from domestic service into the fac-

young girls; and he says he could get a hundred more by raising his finger if he had the room for them. Seldom does any one leave his employment except to get married.

There is a reason: He gives them a large, airy, well-heated and well ventilated factory to



The Hoban Factory.

tory, and brings home to Streator the "girl question" in a real and practical form. For most of the girls of Streator would rather work in Mr. Hoban's factory than in any kitchen in the town. He now employs 125 women, most of them bright, intelligent, cheerful and healthy

work in. The hours of labor are nine per day, and the employes are paid better than in most any other kind of factory labor for women. The average earnings are about \$6.50 a week.

The factory was recently inspected by the state inspector, who reported it one of



the best factories he had seen in the state. The girls take a half hour for lunch at noon, and hot coffee is supplied them by the company at ten cents a week.

What do they make? Mr. Hoban manufactures an adjunct of male apparel known as the "Paris Garter," which is the most finished and popular device of its kind on the market. The factory has a capacity of 10,000 pairs of garters per day, and the entire output is taken by



John Hoban.

one Chicago house— the house of A. Stein & Co., which owns the patent on the garter device. The plant equipment consists of one hundred Singer sewing machines and a number of specially designed presses to stamp and assemble the parts. All are operated by electricity.

The building is of brick, one-story high, 130x30 feet, amply provided with windows from which come an abundant supply of light and air, cooled by electric fans in summer and warmed by steam heat in winter. Detached and practically fire proof, it is free from the dangers that menace the factories employing woman labor in the cities.

Asked why he preferred to operate in Streator rather than in Chicago, Mr. Hoban replied: "We have a better class of employes, and they are steadier. There is not the temptation to wander from factory to factory, hence not so much is lost in breaking in new girls."

Mr. John Hoban is a Streator product. He was born here in 1878, grew up here, and after

## PARIS GARTERS

Assure  
Tidy Ankles  
and Perfect Leg  
Comfort

Every Pair Guaranteed

**25c-50c**

Copyright  
1908  
A. Stein  
& Co.



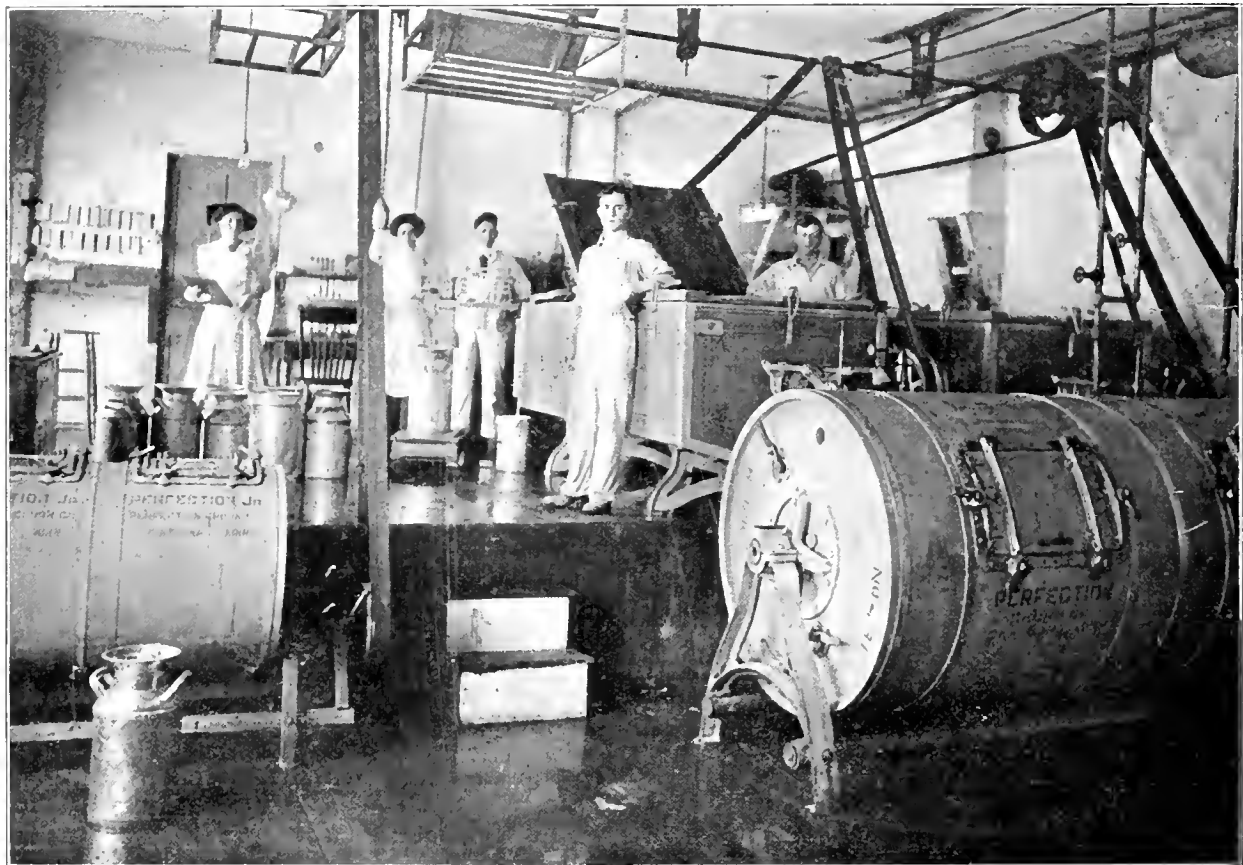
**No Metal Can Touch You**

various employments, went into business for himself in 1906, operating a shirt factory. In 1910 he erected his present factory, in which he is confining himself to the manufacture of the Paris garter. He is operating to the full capacity of his factory, and is achieving a solid and satisfactory success.

## THE ILLINOIS VALLEY CREAMERY COMPANY

Among the latest of the domestic industries to leave the household and enter the factory is the working of milk and cream. Until about a year ago the housewives on the farms about Streator worked up the output of their cattle at home, or had to ship it to creameries at a distance. Within the year a creamery has been established in Streator, and at once demonstrated its usefulness by furnishing the farmers a market for their cream. Twelve hundred cream

cess. The cream is brought to the factory in five-gallon cans, where it is weighed and tested. It is then poured into a large vat, where it is heated to 180 degrees, a temperature not enough to kill all germs. It is then cooled to 60 degrees and churned in a large Perfection churn, which has a capacity of 1,300 pounds at each churning. It is a combined churn and worker and is able to turn out six churnings per day. Nearly all the product is put up in



Inside View of the Illinois Creamery Plant.

producers from the adjoining county have brought their product to the creamery. 400,000 pounds of butter have been made, and \$120,000 has been paid out to farmers.

The Illinois Valley Creamery Company has established here a thoroughly equipped factory with a capacity of 30,000 pounds of butter per week. It is operated on the most up-to-date methods and special regard is had to cleanliness and sanitation in every part of the pro-

cess. The floors are all of cement, and all vessels or things used in the process are thoroughly cleaned and sterilized daily by washing, scalding and steaming.

A large part of the product is consumed in Streator and neighboring towns. It is estimated that \$1,000 has been saved to the merchants of Streator in express on butter alone since the coming of the factory, while \$2,000 has been

one-pound bricks for the market.



saved to farmers from the same source. Agencies for the sale of Streator butter are also established at Vicksburg, Miss., New Orleans,



A. Miller.

La., Newark, N. J., Memphis, Tenn., McKeesport, Penn., E. Liverpool, Ohio, as well as the larger towns in Illinois. Already a very strong trade has been worked up in these distant markets for this excellent butter.

The proprietor of this new Streator enterprise is Mr. A. Miller, an Illinois man, born in Tazewell County in 1878, and connected with the dairy and creamery business for most of his working life. He was connected with the Blue Valley Creamery Co. for three years, part of the time in charge of the correspondence and buying departments. In 1910 he established a plant in Watseka, Ill., which proved very successful, and sold it in 1911 to Mr. H. C. Horneman of the town.

Asked why he located in Streator in 1911, he said: "I had several locations in view, but Streator looked better to me than any of them owing to its advantageous situation and railroad facilities. Further the merchants were of such a class that I thought they drew more trade to Streator from a greater distance than any town I had been in. One "Dollar Day" in Streator I found farmers that had come thirty miles, and where a farmer does his trading he usually sells his cream. I am glad we came. We have doubled our plant since coming, and we expect in the coming year to make 1,000,000 pounds of butter and to pay the farmers half a million dollars."



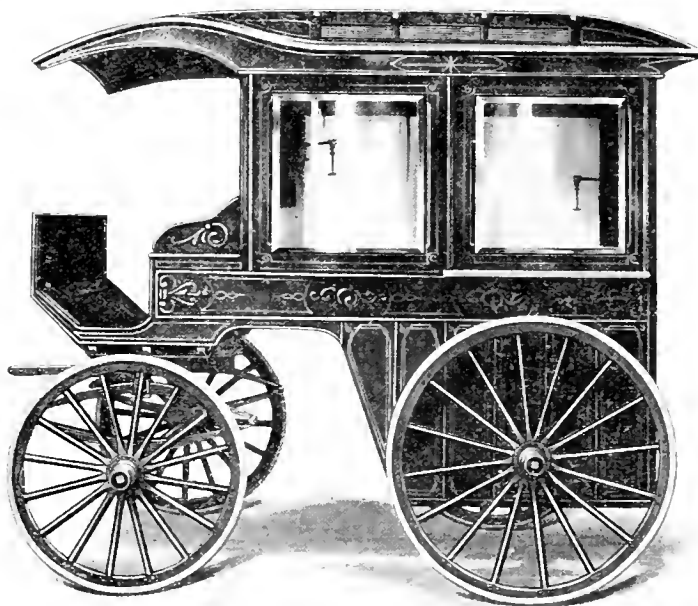
## THE ALLIANCE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

This company has been in business in Streator for twenty-one years. It has been mainly engaged in the building, repairing and selling of vehicles and farm implements. About twelve years ago there came a development which directed its activities into a new specialty, and which greatly increased its production.

Singularly enough the entire business activity of the company was switched by a single customer. A man came in and wanted a wagon built for vending ice cream on the streets. He made a great success of it, and then other ambitious ice cream vendors came in and ordered

all the adjuncts of a mail-order business.

The business grew apace. The company dropped its implement and jobbing business and went more and more into the making of vending wagons. Last year they sold one hundred of these wagons, which went into nearly every state in the union. An odd feature of the business illustrating our curious national traits was noticed. In the south all the trade demand seemed to be for wagons constructed to vend Chili-con-carne; in the west nothing but ice cream wagons were wanted; while in the east the demand was all for lunch wagons—and this



The Alliance Co. Ice Cream Vendor Wagon.

vehicles, until eight were built for Streator.

But the local market for ice cream wagons was glutted and the astute manager, Mr. Winninger, saw that he must look further afield, for what could be done in Streator could be done in other towns.

He inaugurated a national advertising campaign, taking liberal spaces in the Saturday Evening Post, the theatrical journals, the magazines and other expensive mediums. His enterprise was rewarded, and inquiries for vending wagons began to pour in from all parts of the country. He organized a regular advertising department, with a follow-up system, and

was due largely to hungry immigrants at the different ports and stations who wanted cheap food.

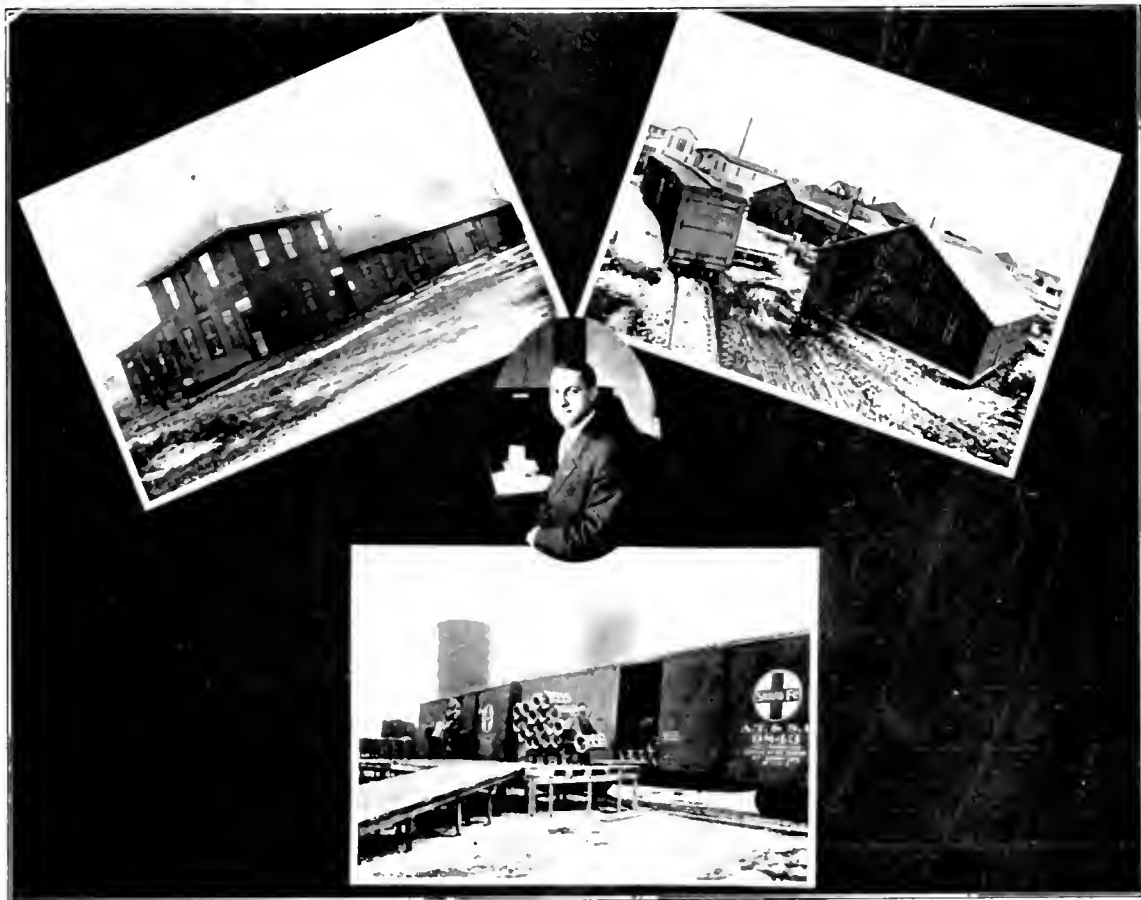
The wagons are splendidly built and equipped, and cost from \$225 to \$400. The field is apparently unlimited, and there is practically no competition. The prospects for growth are very promising. Last year the company made 1,000 wagon beds, in addition to their other vehicles, and had a volume of business of \$100,000.

The officers are Charles F. Winninger, president; Geo. A. Doermann, vice-president and treasurer; Frank Doermann, secretary.

## THE FRANK J. SCHMITZ COMPANY

The most recent of Streator's factory acquisitions is the plant of Frank J. Schmitz and Company, which was moved here from Chicago six months ago. The factory is engaged in a line of manufacture which is unique, namely, the making of crates for the packing and shipping of bananas. This enterprise is an illustration of how new demands for sanitation and healthfulness call into existence new forms of industry. A few years ago bananas were ship-

ping of bananas became manifest, and turned the thoughts of Mr. Frank Schmitz, Sr., inventor, toward the invention of a suitable device to safeguard the banana during shipment. The Schmitz banana crate is the result. The original device was a success, but it has been improved again and again until it has now over thirty patents covering its various features, and is the last word on the subject of crates. The writer was shown a carload of crates packed for ship-



ped all over the country loosely packed in hay, straw, or any other cheap material that might be available. The result was a lot of bruised and damaged fruit, which was sold after arriving at its destination any way the dealer could work it off, and the decayed refuse sold to cheap buyers who would carry it perhaps to slum quarters to spread germs and disease.

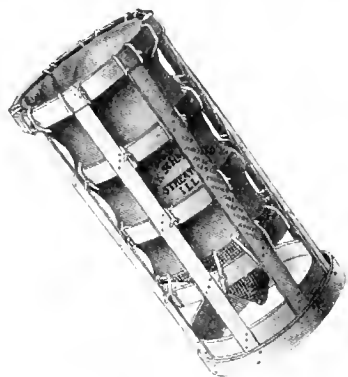
With the growth of sanitation and pure food sentiment the demand for a better hand-

ment several hundred miles to the home town of its principal competitor, and the Streator product was put down in that town at a cost of \$120 more than the figures of its rival, and yet found a ready sale.

The Schmitz banana crate is conceded by all commission men and packers to be absolutely unequalled for its purpose. It has no competitor that pretends to rival it in quality. The only competitive point is price, and when service

and durability are considered the question is eliminated, and the Streator crate is without a rival. The ambition of Mr. Schmitz is not to find how cheap he can make his crate, but how good. He has constantly added features improving the quality of his output, until he now has a crate that can be guaranteed to ship bananas any distance without injury.

Some of these features are very ingenious. Most important is the inner cushion of sack cloth which keeps the fruit absolutely free from contact with the outer wooden framework of the



Banana Crate.

crate at any point. The same device is also a great labor saver, and enables a workman to pack five of the Schmitz crates while he is packing one of the other sort. The cushion permits the goods to be shipped any distance with perfect protection against bruise or jar.

The wooden portion of the crate is made of a peculiar quality of lumber treated by a process devised by Mr. Schmitz which makes it as hard as a rock and almost as durable as steel. Every crate made in the factory has the date of manufacture stamped on it so that users may

know how long it is lasting. The wood comes to the factory in planks and is cut up into slats and hoops by special machinery on the premises. These are boiled and steamed, tied, nailed and painted by an organized force in which the division of labor is carried out in the most thorough manner.

Last year two hundred carloads of crates were shipped by the company. The indications are that this year double that amount will be made. An idea of the business may be conveyed by citing the fact that this year the factory will consume enough string to go twice around the world.

The product goes all over the North American continent—to Calgary, Alberta, Winnipeg, Canada; Los Angeles, California; Portland, Maine; El Paso, Texas; La Crosse, Wis.; Toledo, St. Louis, Chicago, in fact wherever there are commission men.

Mr. Frank J. Schmitz, head of the company, is practically a Streator product. He was born in Cornell, a country town eight miles from here, and came to Streator 25 years ago. From Streator he went to Chicago, where he went into the crate business when 16 years of age, and has remained in it ever since. Asked why he removed his factory from Chicago to Streator, he replied:

"The main reason for choosing Streator as my new location was its remarkable railroad facilities. Of course there are plenty of railroads in Chicago, but the yards are congested and a manufacturer cannot get the prompt service there he can in Streator. The lines run from here to every point of the compass, and since coming I have found it greatly to my advantage. I am sorry I did not come before."

## THE STREATOR MOTOR CAR COMPANY

Another of the large manufacturing concerns initiated by Streator enterprise and promoted by Streator money and brains is the Streator Motor Car Company. It was organized in 1905 by a small group of Streator men who saw in the expanding automobile industry an opportunity to share in the benefits of that growth, and to promote the interests of Streator in which they had a large stake. The enterprise was begun with a small capital—\$30,000—and the output of the first year's operation

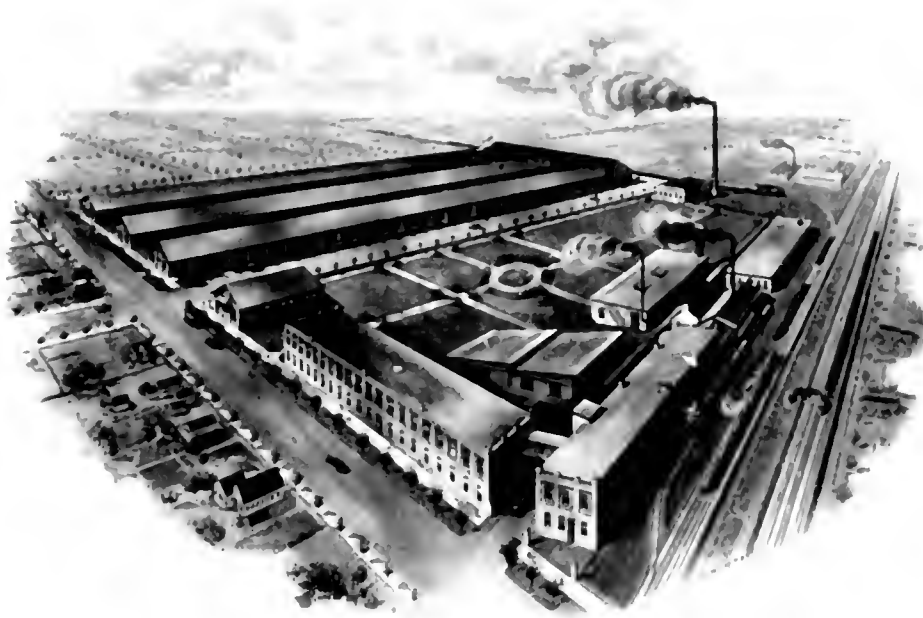
was five cars. The business grew with amazing rapidity, and the capital was increased a number of times until it is now \$600,000. In 1910 the automobile business all over the country suffered a serious reaction, and the activity of the Streator Motor Car Company, like the others, received a temporary check; but it is now in full swing again, and the year 1912 will see a production of 1500 motor cars.

The buildings of the company are built according to the best fire-resisting methods of

construction, and cover seven and one half acres of space. Nearly two miles of switch tracks accommodate the in-going and out going traffic. While the Halladay car, which they manufacture, is made of assembled parts, yet they do their own upholstering, body painting and top building, and they have a thoroughly equipped machine shop where the small parts are procured from old and well established manufacturers whose great capital equipment

Los Angeles, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Chicago, Winnipeg, Atlanta, Jacksonville, New York. The company has 125 agents and distributors.

The splendid reputation of the Halladay has won for it recognition in the highest automobile circles. It was selected as press car in the last Glidden tour. It was chosen pathfinder and pilot for the run of the Chicago Motor Club, also for the little Glidden tour of the north-west from Minneapolis to Montana, and for the first



Bird's Eye View of Motor Car Plant

enables them to specialize in their parts and turn them out more economically and efficiently than can be done by those who attempt to produce every part in one factory.

In the seven years it has been on the market the Halladay car has developed a selling power equaled by few in its class. It has been sold all over the United States and in Canada, and this year a large contract has been signed for export. The larger distributing points are

great tour of Northwestern Canada. All these honors came to the Halladay during the year 1911, and sufficiently attest its standing in the car world.

When working at full capacity the Streator Motor Car Company employs from 150 to 250 employes. The officials of the company are: J. C. Barlow, president; Paul Chubbuck, vice-president; C. Arthur Bruce, secretary and treasurer.

## THE G. & D. MANUFACTURING COMPANY

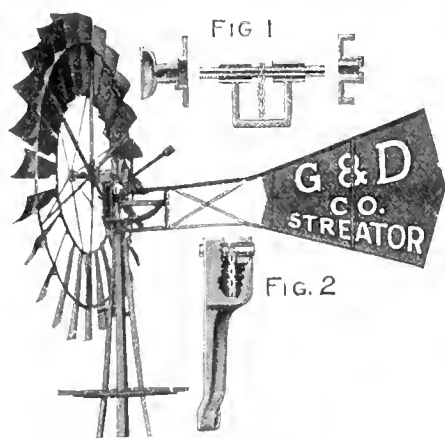
Nowhere has progress been more wonderful during the past century than on the American farm. Not only have the methods been revolutionized but the calling itself has been transformed so that the American farmer of today is not the peasant drudge of past centuries but skilled in the mechanics and science of farming. The last place to yield to the spirit of improvement has been the farmer's barn. Long after the reaper replaced the scythe, and the thrasher the flail, the scoop shovel still reigned in the barn and made the farmer's back ache with the weary drudgery of shoveling grain.

The main business of the G. & D. Company is to make the shovel as much of a back number as

advantage of the Cup Elevator is that it is inside in the dry, and always ready for use. It runs with a chain. No belts to rot, or for rats and mice to eat. Its cups are so arranged that the grains fall into them from above and there is no shelling of the grain, as is the case where the cup has to dip up the grain. When building new cribs it should be done with reference to using the Farmers' Friend Cup Elevator, for which plans will be sent free.

They manufacture also the G. & D. self-oiling windmill, made with fewer parts than any other mill, and will run indefinitely without re-oiling. They make the Plumb Motor Tile Ditcher and many kinds of water tanks, water heaters, litter carriers, marker-lifters, etc.

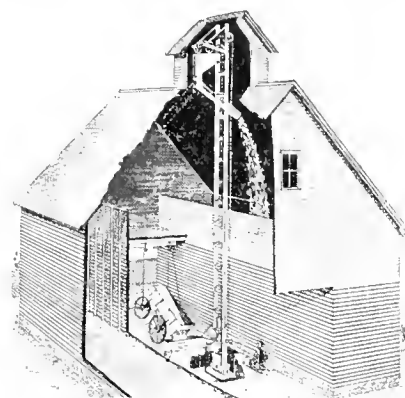
Last year they made and shipped to all



G. & D. Wind Mill.

the scythe and flail, and to save labor in the barn the same as in the field. To this end they are making elevators to run with horse or motor power. Their patents run back to 1898, and they were the first in the field with a portable elevator. Time has tested every point in the structure and every weakness has been eliminated until the "Farmer's Friend" Elevator is the most durable and efficient on the market.

More recently they have been specializing in the Farmer's Friend Cup Elevator, whose cut appears herewith. It is adapted not only to the handling of grain, but can be arranged to handle hard or soft coal, slack, fertilizer, etc. All these materials can be handled for about 75 per cent less than with the scoop. The great



G. & D. Grain Elevator.

parts of the United States and Canada 600 elevators and 150 wind mills. When running at full capacity they give employment to 60 men.

The president of the company is Mr. E. H. Schroeder, and the manager is Mr. Frank Gahn. Mr. Gahn was born on a farm not far from Streator, and worked on it until eighteen. It was there he found the need of the labor-saving devices he afterwards invented. He is the inventor of the elevators and wind mill made by the G. & D. Company, and many other devices are the product of his inventive genius—notably the metal hame coupler and buggy top attachment first made by the Streator Metal Stamping Company, and now in general use.

# RAILROADS OF STREATOR

FIVE GREAT SYSTEMS WITH 45,000 MILES OF TRACKS, AND  
COVERING ENTIRE UNION.

"Unsurpassed" is the word that describes the railroad situation in Streator. In point of rate adjustment, in rapidity and convenience of service, in its ability to reach any market with economy and speed, it is equaled by few and excelled by no interior city in the west.

**FREIGHT RATES.** Its freight rates are the same or better than Chicago.

**SERVICE.** Five great railroad systems with a combined mileage of 45,000 miles compete for its business, and their eager rivalry makes service prompt, sure and efficient.

**SWITCHING.** Four of the railroads keep switch engines and crews in Streator. Usually the car supply is plentiful. Reciprocal switch arrangements exist between all lines, and switching charges are absorbed on outgoing shipments, except when very small in amount.

**FACILITIES.** Roads can make delivery from Canada to the Gulf, from Atlantic to Pacific Coast, and to nearly all intermediate states and territories, without going off their own rails. This reduces delays by transfers and sidetracks.

## From Vice President Ross.

Among those eminent in the railroad world Streator is fortunate in having a friend who is able to speak with authority on all matters relating to transportation. Feeling the need of expert opinion on this subject the editor wrote to Mr. W. L. Ross, Vice President of the Chicago & Alton, and Toledo, St. Louis & Western Railroads, asking a statement from him as to what might be truthfully said about the railroad situation in Streator. Mr. Ross lived here for twenty years and knows the local as well as the larger national situation. His statement is given herewith.

"I attach hereto a statement which will give you the actual facts with reference to rate adjustment between Streator and all territories. To one experienced in the rate adjustment, this statement clearly indicates the advantages of Streator as a point of industrial

development. In addition to the rate adjustment being favorable, I would like to call your especial attention to the railroad systems serving this city.

First, the A. T. & S. F. with its Trans-Continental Line, reaching to the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Coast.

"The C. B. & Q. with the Hill Lines, reaching the Northern Pacific and Colorado territory; also the Gulf through the medium of the Colorado & Southern.

"The C. I. & S., owned and directly managed by the New York Central Lines, covering the entire Eastern and New England territory, as well as the connections via Cairo for the Gulf, giving Atlantic Coast outlet, and a connection with the Great Lakes as well.

"The Wabash, through its connection with the Gould Lines, reaches through the Missouri Pacific and Iron Mountain the entire Southwest. Through the medium of the Missouri Pacific, D. & B. G. and Western Pacific the Pacific Coast.

"The C. & A. with its affiliated lines, known as the Hawley Group, furnish over their own rails, a direct outlet via Newport News, connecting with the Chesapeake & Ohio for export and import traffic, via St. Louis and Kansas City in connection with the M. K. & T., an outlet to the Southwest and Gulf port for import and export traffic; an outlet to the Northwest through the medium of the M. & St. L., covering all Northwestern territory.

## Transportation Speaks for Itself.

"All these lines reach over their own rails the large commercial centres, consuming and producing territories, enabling them to fix the rates and protect industries in this community as against improper adjustments by other territories at all times.

"My personal view based on an intimate knowledge of the situation from a standpoint locally, as well as from a broader view of knowledge of the entire situation, and from a railroad standpoint, is that the transportation facilities of the community are equal to that of

any territory that has come to my observation.

"What you need to do is interest outside capital in your local advantages. The transportation speaks for itself to my mind."

Yours very truly,

W. L. ROSS.

#### How Streator Got Its Railroads.

The expert opinion of Vice-President Ross on the advantages of Streator as a railroad point is corroborated by every manufacturer doing business here, as will be seen from their statements quoted freely in the various articles herein. For several of them the superior railroad facilities have been the chief inducement for their moving here, and every one who came from this motive is glad he made the

change. One says: "I wish I had moved to Streator before."

It is an interesting fact that four of the railroads which now connect Streator with the great systems of the country were largely initiated by Streator brains and carried through by Streator enterprise. They were originally built by Col. Ralph Plumb and his associates as an outlet to the coal output of the town, and afterwards bought in by great corporations which now own them. Thus what is now the Wabash was built as the Chicago & Paducah; the Burlington was the Ottawa, Oswego & Fox River; the Chicago & Alton was the Streator & Wenona, and the great Santa Fe system goes into Chicago on tracks which were originally owned by the Chicago, Pekin and Southwestern.

### THE SANTA FE RAILWAY SYSTEM

The Santa Fe is the great trunk railway that connects Streator with Chicago on the east and California on the west. It owns and oper-

under one management between Chicago and California, and reaches points as distant as Los Angeles, and San Francisco on the west, and



View of Santa Fe Yards and Station.

ates 10,000 miles of track in twelve southwest states and territories. It is the only railway

Galveston on the south, directly over its own rails.



Every twenty four hours there are twenty six freight and nineteen passenger trains passing through Streator on the Santa Fe. All the freight trains take freight here, and a shipper can get a car almost any hour out of the twenty-four to carry his goods east or west. Three fast freight trains daily run direct to California. For Chicago the freight service is as good as express. Freight loaded here at four o'clock p. m. will reach Chicago at three o'clock next morning.

The passenger service is equally convenient.



H. M. DUNCAN.

A person may take a train for Chicago in the morning at 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30 or 9:50. He can leave Chicago for Streator in the afternoon at 12:30, 2:47, 6:00, or 10:00 p. m.; and in the morning at 2:15, 7:43 or 9:30.

For Texas, California and all western points the service is unequalled, and Streator is a favorable starting point for tourists and land seekers from the numerous nearby villages and towns.

### How It Helps Local Trade.

The Santa Fe has observed a policy of consideration for the needs of patrons along its local lines that commends it to public favor. Thus its local time tables are arranged with special reference to the needs of shoppers visiting Streator, and the merchants who serve them. Visitors coming in on local trains, either on the main line or Pekin branch, will be able to spend four hours in town and return to their homes in good season. This considerate policy has built up the local traffic so that there are not less than one hundred visitors to Streator daily from local points on the Santa Fe, and on Saturdays the number is swelled to two hundred.

The Santa Fe as an employer of labor in Streator is equal to a good sized factory. It is an important transfer point, and twenty to thirty cars of freight are transferred daily. An electric derrick equipment is installed here for this purpose. Large trains are broken up and remade, and three switch engines and crews are employed. Round house men, car repairers, three section crews, clerks, signal and tower men make up a large force. There are over one hundred men on the Santa Fe pay roll in Streator and not less than \$10,000 a month is paid out.

### A Railroader By Birth.

The Streator agent of the Santa Fe, Mr. H. M. Duncan, was literally born to the railroad business. He first saw the light in a railway station of which his father was agent, the upstairs of the depot being used as living rooms as was not unusual in the early days. He joined the forces of the Santa Fe in March, 1888, as agent at Knox, worked for it at eighteen different stations, and was promoted to Streator on April 1, 1909. Mr. Duncan is a thorough railroad agent, one of the most capable and experienced in the company's service.

## THE CHICAGO, BURLINGTON & QUINCY RAILROAD

The Burlington, connected as it is with the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern systems, known as the Hill group of lines, is by far the greatest system of railroads entering Streator. Its own mileage is 9,000 miles, that of the Northern Pacific is 6,266, the Great Northern is 7,844, making a total of over 22,000 miles for the entire system. This enormous system trav-

erses the west and northwest, and furnishes direct access to that great empire now developing across the Canadian border, which is destined to be one of our big markets. It is a significant fact that two-thirds of the land buyers buying tourist tickets at the Streator station are headed for these northwestern provinces, and to this great granary the Burlington furnishes the

most direct service, freight and passenger.

A glance at a railroad map shows that the Burlington fairly gridirons the Central West, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska look like a checker board marked off in squares by the lines of the Burlington, while long arms reach out and join with its companion lines stretching to the northern and western limits of the union. Southward they go direct to St. Louis, and south-eastward to Paducah, Kentucky.

#### **Can Ship Direct to About 42,000 Stations.**

The giant magnitudes might only interest the student of social phenomena from their national economic bearing, but to the practical

table delay caused by transferring from one line to another, and the danger of his shipment being held up or lost at some transfer point.

The widely ramifying connections of the Burlington give the shipper another advantage. It enables the agent at Streator to accept shipments and quote routes and rates to any part of the United States. If the shipment is less than carload lots it gives the advantage of its fast freight system. Instead of being shipped on the painfully slow way-freight it is transferred at Galesburg or Chicago to the through freight and sent direct to its destination in a special car, whether it be Nebraska or California.



View of C. B. & Q. Yards and Station.

business man shipping goods in and out of Streator they have a totally different significance.

They mean to him that he can ship over 22,000 miles of track without transfer.

They mean that he can reach about 4,200 stations in the United States without going off the rails of one system.

They mean speed, promptness, accuracy, dispatch, avoidance of worry and loss.

So it is that to be situated on the Burlington is a great asset to any town. To be able to ship to so many different destinations without change, in a territory that affords the best market in the world, is an important advantage to the producer. It insures him against the inevi-

#### **Business Touched With Sentiment.**

The Burlington is connected with the early history of Streator in a manner that touches closely on sentiment. The writer was talking to President Lemmon of the C. W. & V. Coal Co. about this book, and he said:

"Why don't you put in an article about the 'Q'? It was intimately connected with the coal early developments of the town, and its officers were friendly to the local interests of Streator, and gave them substantial assistance in many ways."

President Lemmon's remark is entirely true. While it may have been a policy of enlightened self-interest, it is none the less a fact that our interests were mutual, and the "Q," pulled for

Streator. Not only did they help in the way of rate protection, but for a great many years the Burlington has taken half the output of the C. W. & V. Coal Company. It is the chief purchaser of the new Third Vein Coal, and the first big concern to put the seal of its approval on it by declaring it to be the best engine coal yet furnished by the mines of Northern Illinois.

The Streator agent of the Burlington is Mr. A. B. Cole. Mr. Cole has been connected with this system for 28 years. He was nine years agent at Fulton, Ill., thirteen years at Ottawa, and has been six years at Streator. Not only is Mr. Cole known as an efficient and popular railroad official, but he is highly respected as a citizen, actively interested in every good word and work, whether civic, educational or religious.



A. B. COLE.



**"TRADE FOLLOWS THE FLAG"**  
LOCATE ON THE WABASH



The above is the motto of the Wabash Railroad, which occupies a unique position among the railroads of Streator in that it owns a belt line, which, beginning at Main street runs out into the heart of the shale fields south of the city. Some years ago the Wabash management with far-seeing eye, foresaw the industrial development of Streator, and bought in the railroad of the Coal Run Coal Company. The result proved the wisdom of the purchase. A number of important factories are situated along this track, such as the Western Glass Company, The Illinois Selling Company, the Streator Paving Brick Company, A. O. Fanning and the National Drain Tile Company. A switch engine and crew is maintained and excellent facilities for the expeditious handling of traffic obtain. In addition to the large factories already planted on the Wabash Belt Line, there are a number of ideal industrial sites adjacent thereto which are still available. The Wabash, therefore, enjoys exceptional advantages for furthering the industrial development of the city, and stands ready at all times to assist in promoting its interest. It maintains an Industrial Department, which will gladly assist interested parties in determining on a location that is entirely suitable to their special requirements. It devotes special attention to the de-

velopment of industries along its lines, hence its motto: "Trade Follows the Flag; Locate On the Wabash."

For general traffic purposes the Wabash adds to the other railroad advantages of Streator by furnishing it direct connections to the east and south, as well as giving it another splendid outlet to the Central West. It has its own direct lines to Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo and Des Moines, and operating in conjunction with connecting systems at these gate ways, opens to Streator practically all the great producing and consuming markets of the country.

The Wabash takes special interest in promoting the mercantile business of the town, and its passenger train service is arranged with special reference to the accommodation of traders visiting Streator for shopping purposes. They have incoming passenger service at 8:35 and 10 a. m. and 4:15 p. m.; outgoing service at 10 a. m. and 12:30 and 5 p. m. This service is greatly appreciated by country people and villagers, who come in large numbers daily to Streator to do their trading.

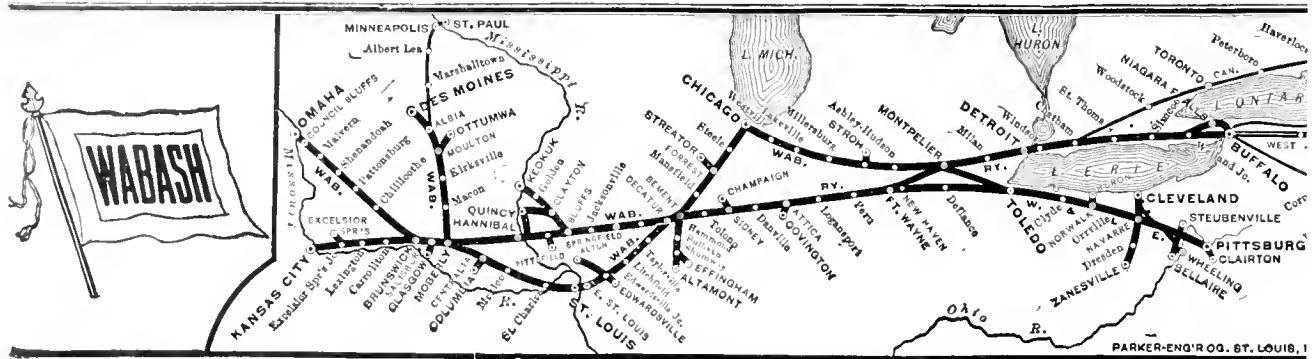
It may be said of the Wabash that it is recognized as one of the old, tried and solid railroads of America. It is part of what has long been known as the Gould system, and is firmly grounded in the best railroad traditions. It has

over 200 miles of railroad, is aggressive, progressive and up-to-date.

As this is being written word comes that orders have been placed for \$2,000,000 worth of steel rails, and recently reports were received of millions of dollars of orders being placed for freight, passenger cars and engines, all of the

principal labor and residence facilities offered by the city of Streator merit the careful consideration of manufacturers, business and professional men desiring to locate where conditions are such as to insure the successful conduct of their business.

For information regarding sites, freight

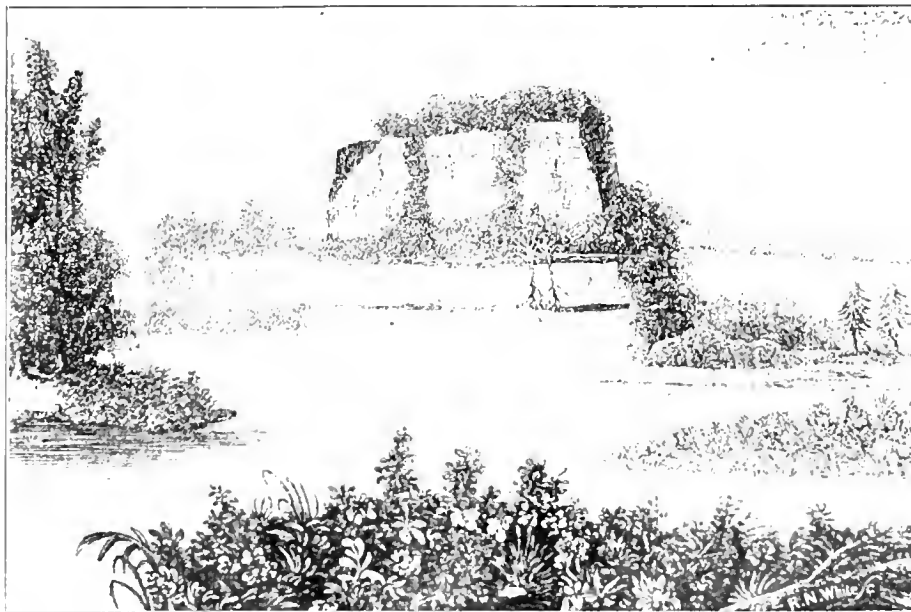


Map of Wabash Lines. The Width of Page Necessitated Cutting Off That Part Showing the Connections With Principal Atlantic Seaports.

most modern models.

The combined advantages of geographical location with relation to principal markets of the country, proximity to the great bituminous coal fields of Illinois, large clay and shale beds, excellent transportation, banking, muni-

rates, transportation service, etc., call on or address W. L. Bowlus, Division Freight Agent, Springfield, Ill.; H. E. Watts, Ass't. General Freight Agent, St. Louis, Mo.; F. W. Cannon, Agent, Streator, Ill.



Starved Rock.

# THE MAKERS OF THE CITY

LIFE SKETCHES OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GREAT INDUSTRIES WHICH HAVE HELPED TO BUILD UP STREATOR.

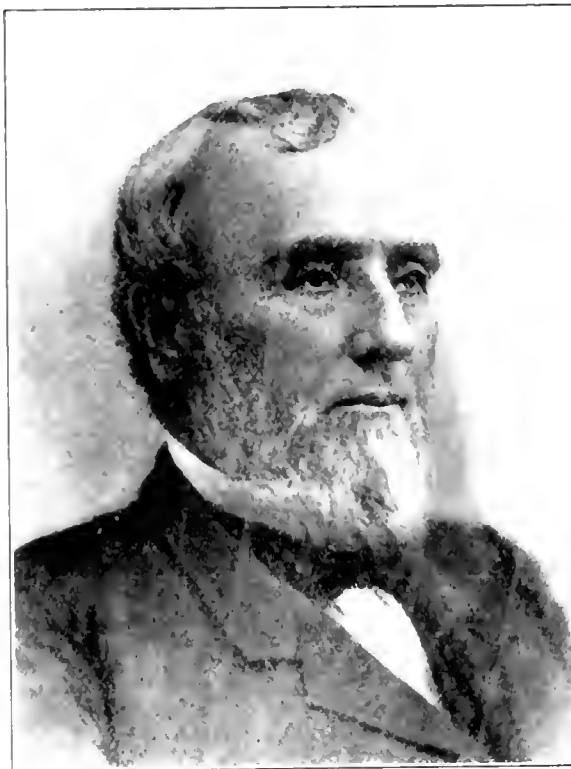
## DR. W. L. STREATOR AFTER WHOM CITY WAS NAMED.

The destiny of a town is prefigured in the character of its great men. No less in the social than in the industrial and economic life of the town are the features of its leaders preserved, and their influence persists in a thousand intangible ways, even after their names are forgotten. Thus it is that the builders of a city, those who shape its plastic and formative days, have a heavy responsibility, for they build for the long and mending years; and into their work is builded their lives and characters as into a monument, and as they build well or ill, they hurt or help the future and add to or take from the stream of life that flows down through the centuries.

So it is that any story of a town that chronicles merely its material elements, its coal, its clay, its glass, is leaving out the most important factors in its growth. Other towns in Illinois have had coal deposits and flourished while it lasted, but where are they today? With the exhaustion of their coal they have become deserted villages, and a lot of tumble-down shanties mark the spot where once they prospered. It takes men as well as materials to make a town, and so it has been thought advisable in this story of Streator to include

brief sketches of a few of the men who, in various ways, have contributed most to its upbuilding. The list is necessarily limited and the names selected for presentation are from among the leaders of the various industries and interests represented in the city. Only one representative has been taken from each interest, and it is believed the names selected will by common consent be approved as the fittest that could be chosen.

It is appropriate that the first portrait among "The Makers of the City" should be that of the man after whom the city is named, Dr. W. L. Streator, of Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Streator was the leading spirit among the capitalists who came here shortly after the war to develop the coal fields. He was the first president of the Vermillion Coal Co., which later became the Chicago, Wilmington & Vermillion Coal Company. He never resided in Streator himself, but he brought here the man who was the real founder of the town, and who became afterward its most honored name,



and is now its most revered memory—Colonel Ralph Plumb. It is very fitting that the city should bear the name of him who discovered it; of him who organized the business on which its earlier development almost entirely depended, and who introduced and made possible the residency of the man who shaped its stalwart after growth, and who is responsible for the character and status of the Streator of today.

## COLONEL RALPH PLUMB

### FOUNDER OF THE CITY.

For no gift of nature, or no advantage of location is Streator so much indebted as for its great men. Its founder, Col. Ralph Plumb, was one of the products of a mighty epoch—the epoch that produced Lincoln, and Grant, Sumner and Logan and the other giants of the Civil War period. He was of the same heroic stature, and was cast in the same mould as those great Titans. He thrilled to the same issues, vibrated to the same passions and was a commanding figure in the anti-slavery battles of those turbulent times. He was a participant in the famous Oberlin-Wellington Rescue, and with thirty-six others was imprisoned for 84 days in an Ohio jail for the rescue of a fugitive slave. When they came out they were met by a band of music, a salute of 100 guns, and greeted as popular idols. In 1854 he was elected to the Ohio legislature, in which he served three terms, was a friend of Chase, Wade, Giddings, the correspondent of John Brown, and was an active and powerful champion of the radical reform measures of those days.

When the war came he gave his services to his country and was assigned to the staff of Gen. Garfield, with whom he held friendly and confidential relations until the latter's untimely end. He continued in service till the close of the war, and came out with the rank of Colonel.

At the close of the war, in the maturity of his powers, he came to Streator to open up the then undeveloped coal fields. As the head of the development company he opened mines, platted the town and developed a great industry. Later he built several hundred miles of railroad to connect the new village with the outside world. Streator is indebted to his

initiative and influence for the fine park of eleven acres in the centre of the town, which it now enjoys.

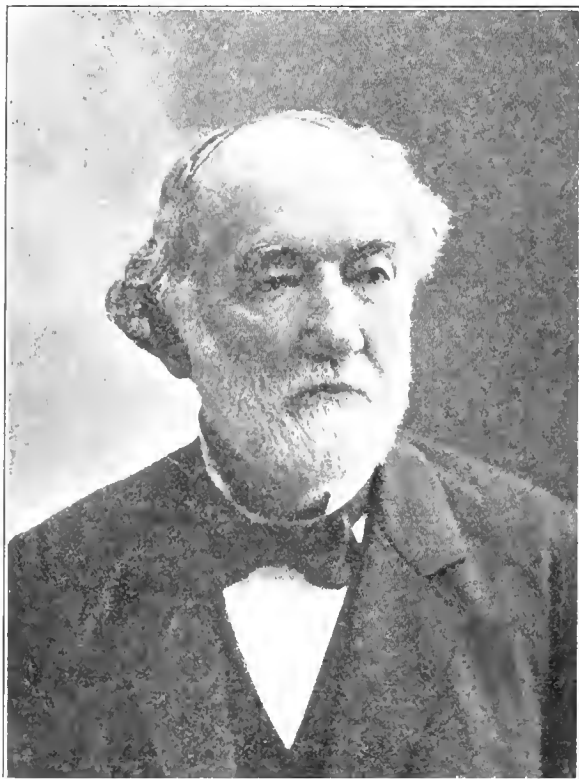
He laid the foundations of the town on a broad industrial basis, and all his life gave every encouragement to factories, railroads and every enterprise calculated to upbuild the town. After many years of active service he decided to retire from business and give his attention to the higher interests of life. He sold out his railway and other interests, and became a soldier of the common good. He built a high school at a cost of \$35,000 and donated it to the town, erected an opera house and es-

tablished the Streator National Bank. When the town became incorporated as a city he was unanimously elected its first mayor, and when in 1884 the republicans of his district called him to be their representative in Congress, he was triumphantly elected, and again re-elected in 1886. He was born in Busti, New York, on March 29, 1816, and died full of years and honors at his home in Streator April 8, 1903.

His last public appearance was at the dedication of the Carnegie Library, Jan. 30, 1903, which the famous ironmaster had given the town at the personal solicitation of Col. Plumb. It was

during the correspondence over the building of this library that Mr. Carnegie acknowledged Col. Plumb as his inspiration and example in his philanthropies, and in the devotion of the latter part of his life to the public good.

Col. Plumb's influence lives on in the broad democratic spirit of the town; in the absence of caste or social snobbery; in the fine enthusiasms for causes calculated to advance the city or the nation; in the liberality and open-hearted hospitality with which it receives all religions, creeds and opinions, and welcomes all men of all classes, races and peoples.



## FAWCETT PLUMB

### FIRST IN REAL ESTATE.

No man has written his name more deeply on the map of Streator than Mr. Fawcett Plumb. For to him more than any other is due its physical appearance, its additions, its subdivisions, its streets, and its general conformation as a town. He it was who originally owned most of the land that Streator stands on, and who laid it out into additions, blocks and lots. It was his wise and liberal policy that made Streator a town of workingmen's homes, for at an early day he instituted the practice of low prices and easy monthly payments on lots to encourage home owning by workers. No doubt this contributed largely to Streator's prosperity by inducing settlement by steady and thrifty workers, whose stake in the town made them conservative, and not easily persuaded to join in the strikes and turbulent labor disputes of those early days in the coal fields.

But it is not on the surface of the town alone that Mr. Plumb's mark is observed. The imprint of his hand is seen in the beginnings of every important industry in the town. In the early days he was interested in coal mining, and when he with prescient eye foresaw the possible exhaustion of that industry, he was one of the pioneer experimenters with the clays of the town, and then with the making of glass in Streator the two industries which later came to be the town's main industrial reliance. Later he invented the Plumb Steam Tile Ditcher, one of the first power ditchers on the market.

His interests have been wonderfully varied, and no movement or enterprise for the good of Streator but has felt the push of his strong and stimulating hand. Liberal to a fault, he has given largely of land and money to help the new industries which it was sought to plant in Streator; and in all movements for the advancement of the town, whether economic, civic or social, he has been among the first to be call-

ed on for assistance and one of the most generous in response.

Mr. Plumb has been an independent republican in politics, and consequently not in the line of political promotion. But in 1872 he was elected to the state senate as an independent by a coalition of democrats and greenbackers and served for four years. He held the office of president pro tem of the senate, and was one of a group of three who held the balance of power, which they used to elect Judge David Davis instead of Gen. John A. Logan to the United States Senate.

He served as private secretary to his uncle, Col. Ralph Plumb, during the civil war, later studied law and was admitted to the bar in Albany, N. Y. in 1867. Came to Pontiac and

began the practice of law the same year. In 1868 he joined his uncle, the founder of the town, in Streator, where he has remained ever since. Mr. Plumb is president of the Streator National Bank, is owner of the opera house, president of the Streator Paying Brick Company, and is actively engaged in real estate and other important enterprises. He was born in Andover, Ohio, in 1834, and at this writing (1912) is regarded as the most remarkable youth of 77 for energy, activity and zest of life that can be found in these parts. He has not retired from business, and as long as he

lives he will work. His interest in Streator is as keen and his faith as unbounded as it was forty five years ago, when he left the practice of law to lay out the real estate foundations of the city.

Outwardly a man of bricks, of real estate, of business; inwardly a dreamer, a mystic, an ardent student of the occult. In affairs, shrewd, practical, money-making; in his heart, generous, lavish of time, money and influence to every fine cause that reaches him with its appeal. Unostentatiously liberal; retiringly beautiful; self-effacingly public-spirited. Such is Fawcett Plumb as he appears to one who has known him for thirty years. Were fortune to bring him millions, no one would spend them more liberally or more for the good of Streator.



## WALTER REEVES

LAWYER, CONGRESSMAN, PUBLICIST.

The next striking public figure in the history of Streator belongs to a later generation. Born 32 years after Col. Plumb, the meridian of his life coincided with the declining years of his venerated predecessor. While rising to even greater heights in the political world, the lines of his activity fell in more peaceful periods and the turbulent issues of the Civil war were not within the scope of his career. That career found its zenith in the last decade of the nineteenth century, and it is not beyond the modesty of truth to say that during that period Walter Reeves was one of the dozen men in the Congress of the United States who directed the legislative destinies of the nation. He was elected to Congress in 1894 by a republican majority of 5,000, and was re-elected three times after by increased majorities. He served in Congress on important committees, notably the Patent and River and Harbor committees. He introduced important measures in both, and was head of the former and next to the titular head in the latter. But a man's influence in Congress is not measured by his position in that body. There is always a small group who are the directors of legislative policy, and in this group Mr. Reeves stood in the forefront as one of the most valued leaders and advisers.

In the councils of his party in the state his voice was listened to with profound respect. He was for many years a member of the State Central Committee, and there were none more able or influential in devising and directing party policies along high and honorable lines. For the petty arts and tricks of politics he had little talent, and no respect, and to this no

doubt is due the fact that this article is not headed Governor Walter Reeves, of Illinois. For it is generally conceded that he was actually or potentially nominated for governor by the dominant republican party at the Peoria convention, and was cheated out of it by a trick. He was a man of intense loyalties, and this disappointment did not swerve him one iota from his allegiance. It is illustrative of this marked trait of his character that he actually went on the platform and campaigned for the very man who had played the trick that defeated his nomination for governor.



After retiring from public office he returned to the practice of the law, in which he achieved rare distinction and success, and became again an active member of the firm of Reeves & Boys.

He was a leader of the La Salle County bar, and frequently appeared before the Supreme Court, where his arguments were received with great respect. At the time of his death he was attorney for the state of Illinois in the famous Economy Light and Power case, which involved the reclaiming of the streams and water power of the state from the corporations and restoring them to the people. During the busiest days of his law practice he always found time to work for Streator, and was for years the active president of its Improvement Association.

But eminent as he was in law and politics, his distinction as a man transcended both. His was a personality that made an instant impression in any and every presence. Imperious in person and manner, his distinguished bearing bespoke him as one born to command, and his courtesy and manifold fairness made it easy to accept his leadership. Being asked what quality of his friend most impressed him, Mr. W. Boys, the seventeen years' law partner of Mr. Reeves, said: "He was the fairest man I ever knew in all my life."



And no encomium could be finer. Large minded, broad, generous, public spirited, a leader of leaders, Walter Reeves leaves a legacy to the youth of Streator inspiring and ennobling; a typical American boy, born of working parents, raised on a farm, educated in the common schools; then teaching school and studying law; then admitted to the bar and building the foundation of his career by his own unaided efforts; he is the stuff of which the governors and great men of our nation have been, and will continue to be made.

Even after he had retired persistent reports appeared in the public prints of his impending appointment to a position in the cabinet of the president. So vital was his influence in high places, so potent his grasp on national politics, that it was scarcely believable that Walter Reeves could retire; and there is little doubt that if untimely Death had not claimed him he would have been called to eminent service in the senate or highest councils of the nation.

He was married in 1876 to Marietta Cogswell, who survives him. It was an idyllic union. Knightly in his ideal of womanhood, he accepted the same standard for himself and lived a Chevalier Bayard without fear and without reproach.

If ever Streator turns out a statesman of national rank, the lives of its two great publicists, Col. Ralph Plumb and Walter Reeves will speak again through him; for no aspiring youth can escape their all pervasive example and influence in Streator.

## MATTHEW W. JACK

### MANUFACTURER OF BOTTLES

Among "The Makers of the City" there is one name that stands out with a prominence all its own. It is the name of M. W. Jack, President of the American Bottle Company. Whatever else may enter into the making of a city, there is one indispensable pre-requisite, and that is productive industry; for without

industry there can be no population, and without population no city. Mr. Jack represents in a pre-eminent way the dominant industry of the town. Not only is he its representative, but in a large degree its pioneer, its developer, its creator.

Away back in 1881 a group of enterprising citizens, bent on promoting the business welfare of the town, started what was then known as the Streator Bottle and Glass Company. Their means were small, but their courage was strong, and they put all the capital they could raise into a small eight-pot bottle factory. This was the beginning of what is now the magnificent plant of the American Bottle Company, and it well illustrates what may be done for a town by men of limited means, if they have the initiative, the courage and the enterprise. The

leading spirits among those adventurers in a new industry certainly deserve to be chronicled here, for to them in large measure Streator owes its prosperous existence. Among those who cooperated with Mr. Jack in initiating the Streator Bottle & Glass Company were H. N. Ryon, F. M. Ryon, W. J. Williams, J. G. Wilson, John Funk and W. W. Haskell the latter being also its first president.

Not one of these pioneers had any experience in the glass business, nor was there, as in these days, a promoter to direct the new scheme. With singular foresight, however, they took a man



MATTHEW W. JACK.

from behind a grocery counter and made him superintendent of the factory. That man was M. W. Jack. He too, was ignorant of the glass business, but he had indomitable perseverance, resourcefulness, adaptability and courage. He bent himself to his task and for two years the struggle was a hard one. The limited means of the company made the situation difficult, and Mr. Jack saw early that if the business was to succeed more capital was needed. With characteristic energy he set about to remedy the defect. The local resources having been exhausted, he sought assistance among those with whom trade relations had brought him in contact, and was fortunate in interesting Mr. Adolphus Busch, of St. Louis. With the advent

of Mr. Busch into the company the question of capital was solved, and the business moved forward by leaps and bounds.

From being superintendent Mr. Jack was promoted to be Secretary and Treasurer, and again to be President and Treasurer of the Streator Bottle and Glass Company. Meantime great changes had taken place. The small pot furnaces had given way to the continuous tank, the number of furnaces had increased from one to six, the company purchased the Streator Flint Works, and enlarged and converted them into bottle factories. Its trade had enormously expended till it covered nearly every state in the union and overflowed into Canada and Mexico. In 1906 the American Bottle Company was organized and the Streator Bottle & Glass Company became one of the important factors in the consolidation. It was capitalized at \$10,000,000, and Mr. Jack was elected president of the new corporation, which position he still retains.

From grocery clerk to head of a ten-million dollar corporation in twenty-five years would in any other age or country be held as an astounding achievement. But in modern America it is accepted as belonging to the usual and expected course of events. Most of the heads of giant corporations have traveled a similar course, and it is rare to find a great captain of industry who has not risen from the ranks by his own efforts. Mr. Jack's career is typical. Born of farmer parents in Old Chester, Pa., in 1855, he remained there till seven years of age, then moved with the family to a farm in Lancaster County, Pa. Here he remained until nine years old, when he was sent to Philadelphia to learn the car building trade. Here he served four years with the firm of Murphy & Allison. He then worked at the carpenter trade in Philadelphia for about a year, and then traveled as a journeyman through Pennsylvania, Illinois and Iowa. When fifteen years old, in 1870, he arrived in Streator, where after working at his trade a short time, he entered the employ of Overholt & Holmes as a clerk, where he remained about three years. He then remained in merchandising on his own account as a member of the firm of Jack, Dagan & Overholt, and continued for about three years, when the business was sold, and he became manager of the dry goods department for Arthur Bros. He remained here until called to what was to be his life work—the management and direction of great glass enterprises.

During these early years in Streator

that Mr. Jack gave himself the education that enabled him to cope successfully with the large questions that came to him in after life. Denied the advantages of academic training, he set to work to acquire a good business education, and at home and night school he succeeded in fitting himself for his work. He also studied law with Chubbuck & Wall, and was admitted to the bar, but never practiced.

During his 42 years' residence in Streator Mr. Jack has been warmly interested in everything pertaining to its welfare and has loyally furthered every movement for its advancement. His home is here, his friends are here, and to everybody he is the same genial, affable, courteous friend and neighbor that he was in his store-keeping days in the long ago. His elevation to high positions has given him opportunities to push the interests of his home town, which he has been quick to avail himself of, but in no other way has it operated to change the frank and unaffected simplicity of his character and manner.

## CAPT. T. A. LEMMON

### MINER OF COAL.

To write the story of Streator and leave out the Chicago, Wilmington & Vermillion Coal Company would be like playing the tragedy of Hamlet and leaving out the Prince of Denmark. For in the early history of the town the part of the C. W. & V. was as important as that of the prince in the play. It not only represented the dominant industry of the town, but was itself the commanding and controlling factor in that industry. The writer is not a believer in the current platitude that corporations have no souls; he believes, on the contrary that their souls are the souls of the men who dominate them, and partake of their vices and virtues. The man who is today the soul of this corporation is Captain Thomas A. Lemmon, president of the company. Capt. Lemmon has been with the C. W. & V. for forty years and with the former president, A. L. Sweet, and Supt. W. S. Cherry, was active in directing the policies of the company during the formative and creative days of the town. What the influence of the company was, and what it might have been may be inferred from a contemplation of the ruined and deserted mining camps scattered over the state. That Streator is not such a camp is due largely to the policy of the company. What was that policy?

As an employe in the mines of the company in those early days, the writer can speak with the voice of personal intimacy and knowledge. Its policy was in the main broad, intelligent, humane, remarkably so when it is considered that this was before the days of national labor unions which have since become so important a factor in the dealings between miners and operators. It was probably the first coal corporation to give its workmen a yearly wage agreement which the miners had an important part in framing, and which contained liberal provisions for the health, convenience and safety of the men. It always was on the affirmative side of the coal market, and stood for the maintenance of prices, and thus made possible the paying of fair wages. It is an evidence of its disposition that at one time it established a sliding scale, giving the miners a share of the profits without demand or solicitation.

This liberal policy attracted to the town a fine body of men, mainly from the mines of Great Britain. Their quality may be inferred from the fact that Streator miners furnished most of the mine inspectors for the state during the early years of the mining law; and have contributed a large number of mine managers and superintendents since mining has been put on a scientific basis in the state. These men received their incentive and training largely from the officers of the company, especially from its superintendent, W. S. Cherry.

It is worthy of note that for a period of twelve years there was not a strike or labor trouble in the mines of this company in Streator. The men largely owned their own homes, and were an intelligent, conservative body; not by any means cringing and subservient, but men who knew something of the laws of trade, and were able to judge when they were fairly dealt with. It was the high quality of its working men that differentiated Streator from other mining villages and kept it on the map after others had been wiped out. It gave Streator a reputation for stability and sound-

ness that made it attractive to investors; and many of these early miners or their sons have become leading business men and supporters of its business enterprises.

The present president, Capt. T. A. Lemmon, has been associated with the company since 1872, the year the present company consolidated with the old Vermillion Coal Company, which opened the first mine in Streator. He is also treasurer of the Eureka Coal & Dock Company. He was born in New Albany, Ind., and educated in the public and high schools of that city. During the Civil War he served from 1861 to 1865 as a member of the 5th Ohio Cavalry, in the Army of the Tennessee. After the

war for a time, he was engaged in the clothing business in Louisville, Kentucky. He came to Chicago in 1866 and entered the employ of E. D. Taylor & Son, coal dealers, as bookkeeper. Later he was with Taylor & Thomas for one year, and then launched into the coal business for himself, organizing the firm of Lemmon & Cornish. This business was burned out in the fire of '71, and in the following year Capt. Lemmon began his services with the company of which he is now president.

The company is still the leading factor in the coal business in Streator, and President Lemmon has recently said that at the present rate of mining its third vein product it has acreage enough to last for a hundred years, even if the

population of Streator should be multiplied many times and many large fuel consuming industries should be added to those we now have.



T. A. Lemmon.

## C. C. BARR

### MAKER OF BRICK.

Reticent in words, eloquent in deeds, Mr. C. C. Barr prefers that the unvarying rule of his life shall not be broken, and accordingly no portrait of him appears on this page. In

deference to the same spirit of reticence the appreciative words that plead for utterance must also be suppressed. But the real portrait of C. C. Barr appears on another page, where the story of his factory appears. For it is into his factory that he has poured the best of his life; in its well-contrived structure will be found the imprint of his hand and brain; and in its efficiency and economy of operation will be seen the traces of his energizing spirit. In still greater degree, perhaps, is the mark of his genius, felt in the organizing of the human factors in production, in the smooth and frictionless disposition of his labor forces, and in the willing spirit, good cheer and contentment that animate his workers.

Mr. Barr built his first factory here in the years of 1892 and 1893. It was not his intention at first to remain in personal charge of the plant. But the first years were years of experiment, and the experiments were not always successful. It took some time to find out just what kind of treatment Streator shale required to make it turn out a marketable product; and Mr. Barr finally decided that the enterprise required his personal attention, and so settled down in Streator to donate all of his energies to the management of his plant. It was a fortunate thing for the town, for in the years that have ensued Mr. Barr has built up one of the biggest and most substantial clay industries in the west, and given to the city one of its most valued and respected institutions. His success has demonstrated that the shale beds of Streator are its most important assets, and that the future fortunes of the town are in large measure bound up with this industry. Mr. Barr is a believer in the future of paving brick; that the time is coming when all the country roads will be paved with vitrified shale products, and that Chicago and the great north-west will create a great demand which can be best supplied from the points most advantageously situated to produce and ship the brick. Perhaps it was this faith that led Mr. Barr in 1911 to reorganize and extend his plant to the extent of doubling his capacity. Starting with a capacity of 50,000 brick a day, he is now capable of producing 200,000 a day, a four-fold growth in twenty years. He has also increased his holdings of shale land, having now a supply of 115 acres. When running at full capacity he employs from 300 to 325 men.

C. C. Barr was born in White County, Indiana, on Dec. 13, 1851. After a common school edu-

cation he became attracted to the work of engineering. He was a member of the engineer corps employed in the construction of the Texas & Louisiana railroad. He later became a partner in the firm of Anderson & Barr, whose specialty was pneumatic work, deep foundations and soft ground tunneling. They became a successful firm and were entrusted with many important enterprises. Among the big jobs done by Anderson & Barr was the building of the substructure of the Merchants' bridge at St. Louis, and of the bridge at Cairo, Ill. Their most conspicuous piece of work was the substructure of the Hawksbury River bridge at Sydney, Australia, at that time the deepest foundation in the world.

Mr. Barr's interest in Streator began with his building and ownership of the street railway, which has since been sold to other interests. Being attracted by the shale prospects he retired from the firm of Anderson & Barr to give his full time to their development. He built a fine residence in the town, and settled down to become, it is hoped, a permanent resident.

## WALTER L. ROSS

### RAILROAD MAN.

No reckoning of the forces that entered into the making of Streator would be complete that omitted the railroads; and no man is so fitted to represent their contribution to the upbuilding of the town as Walter L. Ross, Vice President of the Chicago & Alton and associated railways. For Mr. Ross laid the foundations of his reputation as a railroad manager during his twenty years service in Streator; and in doing so was able to be of great value to the transportation and industrial interests of the city. During his years in Streator important developments were being made in the railway situation, new combinations were formed, new rates were being established and new directions were being given to traffic. Mr. Ross was in charge of the interests of the Indiana, Illinois and Iowa R. R. when that line was establishing its position as the outlet belt line which enabled east bound traffic to avoid Chicago with its heavy charges, and made Streator the gateway between the east and the west. He formed advantageous connections for his belt line with the C. B. & Q. and the Santa Fe rail-

roads that stand today, and which send the dressed meats of Omaha and Kansas City, and other high class freight through Streator to the east. In fact it placed Streator on the map for eastern business for the first time. Favorable rates were established for bottles and other Streator products, and in a general way it may be stated that during Mr. Ross' regime more was done in the way of rate adjustment than at any other time in the history of the town, and on the freight basis then established Streator's future will depend more than on any other single factor.

While primarily a railroad man, Mr. Ross was active in every movement for the benefit of the town. He was the first secretary of the Streator Club and collected the funds to establish its first club rooms; and he was its president when the building was erected which it now occupies. While agent for the Wabash he made the contract for the purchase of the Plumb switch, along which are operated important shale and glass industries. He was instrumental in locating the Barr Clay Works and the Streator Clay Manufacturing Company's factories along the line of the Wabash; also in the extension of the L. E. & L. Railroad to Zearing, and the location of the factory of the Vulcan Defining Company on that line. He solicited the funds that erected the Locke factory building, since the home of the Metal Stamping Company.

It was during these active years that the abilities of Mr. Ross attracted the attention of Mr. Paul Morton, Mr. T. P. Shonts and Mr. Geo. H. Ross, who were then interested in the L. E. & L. R. R., and who have since become conspicuous figures in the railroad world. When they acquired the Clover Leaf System Mr. Ross was invited to accompany them. He went to Toledo and was made Assistant General Freight and Passenger Agent, and then was promoted to be General Freight and Passenger Agent, and later was advanced to General Traffic Manager.

It was while filling these positions that Mr. Ross came in contact with Mr. Edwin Hawley, Thomas H. Hubbard, Mr. W. C. Brown and other members of that group which has since come to be known as the "Hawley group." This has come to be one of the most powerful and aggressive bodies of railroad financier in America, and Mr. Ross is one of the most valued traffic men. He now holds the following positions: Vice President of the Chicago &

Alton, of the Toledo, St. Louis & Western, and the Iowa Central M. St. L. He is also a director of the Detroit & Toledo Short Line.

There is nothing unusual in the rise of Walter L. Ross. It is the case of the typical American boy, illustrated in the ascent of most of America's captains of industry and kings of finance.

He was born in Bloomington, Ill., Jan. 1, 1865, had a common school education, became a messenger boy, then a clerk in the Western Union Telegraph offices. He advanced rapidly, came to Streator in 1885, where he served as joint agent of the L. E. & L. and Wabash railroads. On the division of these interests he became Division Freight & Passenger Agent of the L. E. & L., and in 1905 he left Streator to enter the greater career which his abilities opened up to him. He still thinks of Streator as home. Here is where he married his wife, where his children were born, and where his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Ross, still live. A man of loyal friendship and affections, he still maintains a lively interest in the industrial prosperity of his old home, and Streator has no stauncher friend in the railroad world, or one more able or more willing to help.

## R. W. CRAWFORD

### BUILDER OF CARS.

The representatives hitherto discussed as "The Makers of the City" have been men who have been associated with the past and present of the city. Looking around among the newer men, those who represent its present and future, the name of R. W. Crawford, car builder, comes to mind as pre-eminently the most fit and striking example.

A maker of maxims says, "Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them." It is a catchy line, but it is not true. There is and there can be no greatness as there is and can be no success for one save that which he strives for and wins.

One may be born rich or have riches thrust upon him; but the mere possession of wealth is not even an approach to the temple of greatness or success. Success means continued effort and sacrifice; it means the overcoming of difficulty, the traveling of roads of one's own building, the

scaling of ladders of one's own making, and in the main it means that each must build and climb alone.

In substance what is here said applies to R. W. Crawford, of this city, who began with little, practically nothing, but has won success. Those who view things superficially look upon his rise as meteoric, but others, who know that for every result there is cause, realize that the place Mr. Crawford holds is neither accidental or providential, but on the contrary, is the logical outcome of years of struggle, of endless planning, well directed ambition, of cleanliness of life, of courage, fortitude and farsightedness — the characteristics that all successful men possess, the personal endowments that make circumstances their creatures instead of their being creatures of circumstances.

R. W. Crawford has been in Streator five years. He came here with less ready cash than fifty acres of land in the vicinity of the city would sell for today, and yet, within that short time and with that limited capital, backed by a big purpose and disciplined capability, he has developed a business and erected a plant which a half million dollars would not tempt him to part with.

Mr. Crawford was born in Scotland in 1865, where he remained until twenty years of age, when he came to America and located in Western Texas. At twenty, he caught the fever of western migration and for the next three years made his home in National City, and San Diego, California. Here he became the assistant of the noted engineer, J. C. Schuyler, whose work lay in building dams across rivers, laying pipe lines and in locating and erecting irrigation plants.

At the close of this service Mr. Crawford

returned to his old home in Scotland and engaged his old master as an instructor in civil and mechanical engineering and the higher mathematics, and upon returning to America he associated himself with the American Locomotive Company, a big manufacturing concern at Richmond, Virginia, where he gained a practical and closer acquaintance with his chosen calling, and in addition acquired a knowledge of executive work. After a lengthened service with this company he went to Montreal, Canada, where he pursued afresh his academic studies, after which he went to northwest Canada in an executive position with a big railroad company.

It was while in the Northwest that he conceived the idea of car-building and car repairing, and he came to Chicago with the view to inducing some man with capital to become his associate. He failed in this, but while in Chicago he made the acquaintance of a manufacturer who was seeking a location in Illinois. In company with this gentleman he traveled through Southern Illinois and on the return trip, both stopped off for a short visit.

While here Mr. Crawford met Mr. O. B. Ryon, Mr. Walter

Reeves and three or four other members of the Streator Improvement Association, now known as the Streator Commercial Club, and the result of this meeting is the presence of the Crawford Locomotive & Car Works in the city of Streator today. Mr. Crawford finds a place in this memorial to Streator because he is a city builder in a big way and because his success in the world is in harmony with the spirit of the west and because it is an inspiration to every young man with brain and a purpose. He is a typical Scotchman, of few words and much earnestness, with a mind single to his business and its further development.



R. W. Crawford.

## DANIEL HEENAN

### RETAIL MERCHANT PLUS.

It is not alone to the producer that a town owes its greatness. The distributor, the merchant who passes out the necessities and the luxuries of life to the people with efficiency, economy and honesty, is not less serviceable to the community than the builder of a factory. He it is who makes up the solid middle class of the town; who gives steadiness and permanence to its social institutions; who gives support to its charities, its churches and educational movements; who forms the conservative basis of opinion on public questions and who looks ahead and plans for the future of the city.

As the chief representative of this important class in the up-building of the town the name of Daniel Heenan is presented. There will be no one to question the pre-eminence of Mr. Heenan as a merchant or doubt the correctness of his selection as the representative of his class. Mr. Heenan is not alone the unquestioned head of the mercantile guild in Streator, but it is doubtful if there is a merchant in the State of Illinois, outside of Chicago, to equal him in the grasp and daring of his imagination or the breadth and bigness of his enterprise.

Mr. Heenan has built in Streator a monument to his mercantile genius that will long survive him; one that will be pointed to as one of the institutions of the city after he has passed away. It is one of the show places of the town, a splendid structure of brick and stone, the largest and most complete appointed emporium of trade to be found in the State outside the metropolis. Not only does it surpass all towns of the size of Streator, but it eclipses all similar establishments in towns of three

times its size; the largeness of the builder's vision and the daring of his ambition are shown in his undertaking to build such a structure in such a town; and his mercantile genius is demonstrated by his success in its operation.

The department store is the product of a new age, like the incorporated company; it brings with it its problems, its economies, its efficiencies. Mr. Heenan is one of the pioneers in the establishment of this modern institution in the provincial town. He has brought Big Business down to little uses, and given the small consumer the economies and conveniences of big transactions. As Elbert Hubbard

says: "The American Department Store has taken up lost motion and given the people better goods at a lower price. It has been the inevitable, because it does the greatest good to the greatest number. It has worked for economy and length of days. It means mutuality, reciprocity, brotherhood.

"But to give the people the things they want is not enough. You must show them what they want. The great modern store is a leader in taste. It is an educator. It stands for economy, color, proportion, harmony and increased happiness. It inspires the imagination by bringing from the far corners of the earth the products of

the loom, workshop, farm, mine and studio. It displays these goods so that the public may come and examine them, weigh, analyze, sift, decide and make them their own if they wish.

According to this gospel we find that D. Heenan has been an unconscious preacher and teacher of ethics, and that his store has been a place where his patrons received practical instructions in the laws of beauty, economy and honesty in trade relations.

Who then is Daniel Heenan?

The outward facts can be briefly stated. Born in the town of Indiana, Canada, on the 16th day of December, 1839, he attended the



D. Heenan.

common schools during boyhood, and finished his school education in the Toronto High School at the age of 17. He started his business career as a clerk in Cayuga, Canada, and later opened up a store in his native town. Coming to Ottawa in 1866 he formed a mercantile partnership under the style of Burke & Heenan, which continued until April, 1872, when Mr. Heenan moved to Streator and opened up business as D. Heenan & Co., with John Flammagan and M. J. Finlen as associates. The business prospered until the store was destroyed by fire, and Mr. Heenan erected the present splendid structure, which covers a block of land in the business centre of the city.

These bare facts give only the skeleton of a life filled with pulsing and throbbing interest. Mr. Heenan is a merchant plus. He has been the recognized head of his party in the city for over a quarter of a century, most of the time a member of the democratic state central committee. His ability was recognized by the only democratic governor in recent years, John P. Altgeld, who appointed him a member of the state prison commission, on which he served for four years. A leader in all movements looking to the good of the city, he has been prominently identified with its leading institutions. With Colonel Ralph Plumb he was one of the incorporators of the Streator National Bank, and in 1882 was one of the organizers of the Streator Hotel Company, which erected the Plumb House, of which property he is now the sole owner, having bought up all other stock interests.

Although he has passed the allotted three score and ten, Mr. Heenan is still one of the active and commanding figures in the business life of Streator, and his influence and power are to be reckoned with in all matters touching the progress and prosperity of the city. And his interest is still keen and his power potent in any movement affecting Streator's business welfare.

## JOHN E. WILLIAMS

### MEDIATOR, ARBITRATOR, PEACEMAKER

(By M. Meehan.)

There are men who are not captains of industry nor of business, nor yet leaders in statecraft or politics, who leave their impress on the thought currents of their community and are admitted to recognition as among "The Makers of the City." Such a man is John E. Williams,

the editor of this publication, who for over a quarter of a century has been the manager of public amusements, lecture courses, chautauqua and the like; and who as writer, speaker, director and composer of music, arbitrator and general public spirited citizen has stamped his personality on the city in a manner that will not be easily effaced.

It would have been a pleasant task to the writer to have attempted a characterization of his colleague, Mr. Williams, but as he has been forestalled in this by one who is considered the most brilliant writer in America, he will give way and present the sketch of Elbert Hubbard, published in the Era of December, 1910. Says the Era:

"Williams is a business man by accident, a laborer by prenatal tendency, a Fabian by nature and a Roycroftier by the Grace of God. He takes an earnest, active interest in all economic and social betterments. He knows history, literature, philosophy better than any college professor I ever saw. He is a workingman who has improved his time. He is the friend of the working men and women, and he is a business man. For many years he was a coal miner, a day laborer, and he knows the heart of the toiler—those who go forth to their labors until the evening—better than any other man I ever met, and I've known quite some few—for my name is not Simeon Stylites.

#### Has Charity, Too.

Williams has knowledge plus, and charity that suffers long and is kind. He is so big that he fully realizes that any man who devotes himself to aiding the proletariat will get gross ingratitude and stupid misunderstanding for pay.

And yet he sides always and forever with this man that he knows will rend him if he ever gets close enough to clutch his throat. Blind, blundering humanity that fails to be a friend to even itself, needs a friend—and Williams is that man!

He is as tender as Clara Barton, as gifted as John Ruskin, as practical as William Morris, as hopeful as Whitman and as brave as Jim Bludsoe, who "held her nose to the bank until every galoot was ashore," and then perished in the wreck."

Undoubtedly the great work of Mr. Williams' career, the work which his forty years of uneventful life in Streator prepared him for, was the mediation of the claims growing out of the Cherry disaster. That horror left 530 women and children unprovided for, with no resources but doubtful lawsuits. Of this Secretary of Labor, in a state report says:



"With a vision rare among men, through the tears and grief of a stricken people, he saw the line of a new duty, the open doorway of a great opportunity, and succeeded in transmitting the materials of a great tragedy into an instrumentality of a great service to mankind. Inspired by no other purpose except the weal of his fellow mortals, this man for months disregarded the demands of home and business in the ardor of a splendid consecration, gave the wealth of his mental and spiritual endowments to a cause that absorbed all the energies of his active soul."

His labors were successful, and Mr. Williams had the satisfaction of seeing the money that would otherwise have been wasted in court costs, lawyers' fees, paid over to the women and children. It cost the St. Paul Coal Company nearly half a million dollars.

The big man on the other side of the mediation was Albert J. Earling, president of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul R. R., which was the real owner of the Cherry mine. In a beautiful letter to Mr. Williams, reviewing the settlement Mr. Earling says:

"It was difficult at the outset to understand such unselfish devotion to humanity. There are many motives that lead men to champion one side or the other in any controversy. There are many ardent advocates of one side or the other, but no other instance has come under my observation of a man with the capacity to help, coming voluntarily to the aid of contending parties with an equal eye for fair dealing for both and justice for all. I think I am justified in saying that without your skillful and intelligent mediation the settlement at Cherry would have been as far off now as at any stage of the negotiation. If out of the wreckage of property and tombs of men at Cherry shall come forth a permanent bettering of the relations of employer and employed in the hours of the com-

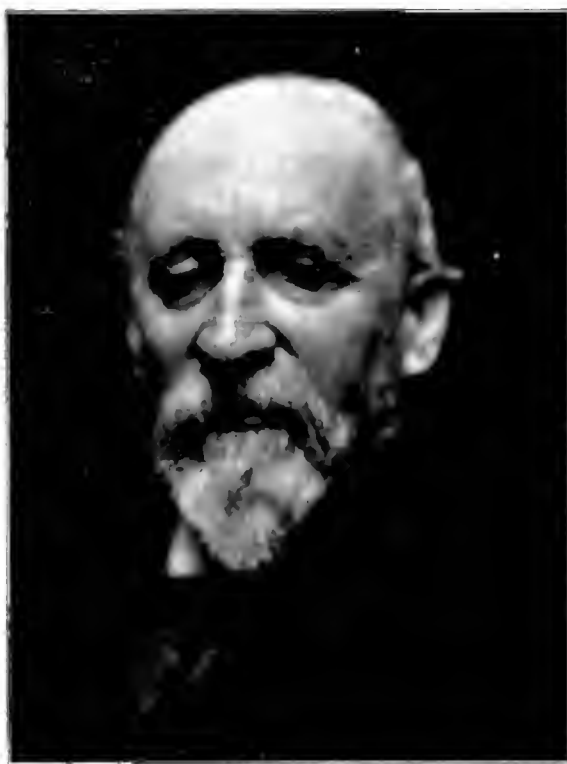
mon disaster, it may be counted as some small salvage from so awful a calamity, it shall stand as a monument to your unfaltering effort to establish among men a lasting principle of equity and justice."

Theodore Roosevelt in an editorial in the Outlook commended the work of Mr. Williams very highly, and it has been widely commented upon in papers and magazines.

For the past two years Mr. Williams has been the official arbitrator of the United Mine Workers and the Illinois Coal Operators' Associations. At the last arbitration session the commission passed a unanimous vote of thanks

to Mr. Williams "for the fair and impartial manner in which he presided over our meetings; for the unfailing tact, good feeling and practical wisdom which have characterized his conduct of the proceedings, and which have been of invaluable assistance in bringing our deliberations to a harmonious and successful conclusion."

The outer facts of Mr. Williams' life are briefly told. Born near Merthyr Tydvil, Wales, in 1853, he came to America in 1864. Soon after he entered the coal mines and continued as a miner for about fifteen years, the greater part of the time in Streator, after which he became a newspaper man, then a fire insur-



J. E. Williams.

ance agent and theatre manager. He has never held political office, but has been recognized in many positions of worth. He was secretary of the first labor union in Streator, and later, the first check weighman at its mines. He organized the Business Men's Auxiliary League in 1897, which helped the miners carry on that memorable strike.

Mr. Williams was arbitrator for the Coal Run strike; has been official arbitrator for the Illinois coal operators, is vice-chairman of the Cherry Relief Commission; president of the trustees of the Church of Good Will and chairman of the Sunday Evening Lecture Course.

# THE STORY OF STREATOR

ITS CHARACTERISTICS; ITS HISTORY; ITS GOVERNMENT; ITS INSTITUTIONS.

Streator is not yet a beautiful city. It is a town in the making; not yet a finished product. Its wealth and energies are devoted to deepening and broadening the foundations of its industrial life, rather than to smoothing out the wrinkles of toil from its face or adorning itself with the fruits of its labor. It is still in its iron age; its golden age is yet to come. The rude framework that supports the social fabric stands out bare and grim, as yet uncovered by the accretions which in older cities soften and mellow, if they do not conceal, the rough beams which knit the structure together; and the play of those elemental energies which propel the industrial mechanism, and thereby vivify and vitalize the social life, are still plainly visible.

"The gilded youth of the second generation, who wastes in idle elegance the earnings of his father's toil, has hardly made his appearance here as yet. The men who made the man he employs. There is no leisure class, and but few retired men of business. Such affinity has not crystallized into social caste. Society is democratic; it permits the free flow of social feeling along the channels of natural sympathy regard-

less of class distinctions. Work is the great unifier; when master and man touch elbows in a common task there is born a spirit of fellowship which no disparity in wealth or station can neutralize. The absentee employer, like the absentee landlord, is the true creator of class divisions, the begetter of class pride, the fomentor of class hatred. In Streator he is practically unknown."

The foregoing words, written by the editor of this volume in 1898, may still stand as an appropriate introduction to an article on Streator. For Streator is still a town of workers and workingmen. It is still in the making; and although its sense of beauty is growing, and evidences of it may be seen in its parks, streets, fine homes and well kept lawns, it may be admitted that it does not compare in this respect with the towns of the old and finished East. It is unfinished, therefore not dead. It has not a long past, but has an immense future; and that future belongs to men of action, men of energy, the men who have made and will continue to make the industries and the institutions of Streator.

## THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE TOWN

It cannot pretend to a history of hoary antiquity. The oldest date the writer has been able to find in the chronicles of the past is 1831, at which time one George Basore, a native of Virginia, settled on a farm about one mile north-east of where Streator now stands. It is recorded that the family supplied their simple wants from materials of their own raising. They made clothing of flax and wool, leather for footwear and harness from hides tanned by themselves, sugar and molasses from the maples on their farm, meat from their own stock; they ate the corn and grain from their own fields, and in their own blacksmith shop made their own

tools with which to repair their own farm implements.

### Pioneer Names Still Survive.

From 1833 to 1837 there was an influx of settlers, many of them from Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Among them were some whose names still survive in the directory of modern Streator. There are the Raineys, the Mackeys, the Downells, the Reddicks, the Bronsons, the Fulwilers, the Dinsmores, the Painters. One of the descendants of the latter, Mr. Lloyd Painter, is the present city attorney of Streator.

These were all farmers, and it was not until

the early sixties that there were signs of a nucleus that would foreshadow the future city.

About this time a number of miners began burrowing in the banks of the Vermillion River and drifting into the rich seam of coal that cropped out along the stream. To satisfy their wants a small grocery was started in 1861 by John O'Neil on the river bank. The next building was erected by James Huggans, the front part of which was used as a store. Then came Robert Duncan's store, and in 1864 came Springer & Painter. Shortly after was built what became the Streater House, and Overholt & Holmes built what was long the leading

tion soon began to be counted by the thousands. On the tenth of February, 1868, the new town was platted, the signers of the plat being Ralph Plumb secretary, and James Huggans, Albert McCormick and Wm. Rainey. Streater was incorporated as a village not long before 1870, and in that year were elected as its officers the following:

Frank Holmes, president; and J. O'Neil, Ed. Woolzen, Robt. Duncan and G. W. Cummings, councilmen, the latter also serving as clerk.

#### First City Officers.

The village organization was continued un-



Louis Nater, City Treasurer.



Fred H. Renz, City Engineer.

store, on the site of the present Plumb House. The village was scattered along the bluff of the river and was called "Hard Scrabble" from the difficulty of climbing the hill from the river ford. A little later the village was called Unionville; but in 1866 came Col. Ralph Plumb and with him came the Vermillion Coal Company with its president, Dr. W. L. Streater, from whom the town got the name it now bears.

#### The Coming of Col. Plumb.

With the coming of Col. Plumb a new era was begun. The coal industry was rapidly developed, railroads were built, and the popula-

tion soon began to be counted by the thousands. On the tenth of February, 1868, the new town was platted, the signers of the plat being Ralph Plumb secretary, and James Huggans, Albert McCormick and Wm. Rainey. Streater was incorporated as a village not long before 1870, and in that year were elected as its officers the following:

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The village organization was continued un-

til July 3, 1882, when Streater became a city under the general laws of the state. Its population was about 6,000. The first officers of the city under the general laws of the state were: Colonel Ralph Plumb, president, John E. Williams, clerk; John T. Kuhns, treasurer; J. T. Murdock, attorney; Joseph Mosher, superintendent of streets; Henry Smith, marshal; B. A. Hattenhauer, park commissioner. The aldermen were: Joseph O'Neil, Hugh Hall, J. C. Campbell, L. C. Mills, George Bronson, B. A. Hattenhauer, W. W. Haskell, J. M. Hess, John Arthur, Thomas Hudson.

## THIRTY YEARS OF MUNICIPAL PROGRESS

Although not originally a propoessing town, Streator since its organization as a city has made rapid strides and will now compare favorably with its sister cities of the west. Streets have been lifted from the mud and paved with vitrified brick; miles of straight stone curb with curved intersections give long symmetrical lines which are pleasing to the eye; and these are flanked by broad, grassy berms planted with well-grown shade trees. Joining these are the well-kept lawns of many fine residences, broadly set back from the street, giving an air of spaciousness absent from many older towns. The open park of eleven acres in the centre of the town and the two smaller outside parks add to the air of breadth and largeness in the out-door aspect of the city.

### Fine Public Buildings.

During its thirty years as a city, many fine public buildings have been erected which dignify and ennoble the civic landscape. Notably is this true of the school buildings and public library, which are really splendid specimens of architecture, and present an attractive and distinguished appearance. The churches, too, lend distinction to the town, some of them being quite imposing in appearance; and the Masonic Temple, Post Office, Streator Club, and especially the new Elks' Club add to the attractiveness

of the city. To the stranger entering Streator today it would present the appearance of a well built, solid, substantial industrial town, now passing into its second stage, and taking on the



Harry Young, City Electrical Inspector.

graces and refinements of an awakened civic and aesthetic consciousness. Already the lines are emerging which in the years to come are to transform it into the city Beautiful.

## CLEAN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

The government of the city since its organization has been conducted along broad democratic lines. Although its governors have been chosen nominally on a partisan basis, in the main the popularity of the men rather than of the party has determined the elections. Republicans and democrats have succeeded each other in office with little regard to politics, and in the main a good representative class of men have been elected to the mayoralty and council. A great deal of public work has been done in these years, especially in street paving, sewers and bridge building, and it is worthy of remark that there has been no taint of suspicion or graft except in one instance. In that case it was suspected that brib-

ery was used in the erection of a bridge, and public conscience was so strong that it prosecuted and convicted the bribers and caused the removal of the bridge after it had been built across the river—a fact that speaks volumes for the sound civic spirit of the citizens.

The city had been especially progressive along the line of permanent improvements, notably in the matter of the paving of streets. It has constructed nearly thirty miles of brick paving at an approximate cost of \$780,000.00, which is probably more than any city of its size in the world.

The broad area of the town may be inferred by the fact that it has required the construction of 87 miles of walk to accommodate the homes,

of which 12 miles are concreted and 75 are of brick. Approximately 16 miles of sewers have been built and the town is well drained, and it is worthy of note that these sewers have all been built and paid for out of the general fund, and no special assessment has yet been levied for this construction.

#### **Present City Administration.**

The commission form of government, although favorably discussed, has not yet taken hold here. The city is still governed by a

The council consists of Messrs. W. Atkinson, W. Cool, J. Deiderich, J. Gotch, C. H. Haldeman, J. M. Hunter, H. Johnson, J. H. Jackson, L. F. Morgan, F. Marx, T. McNamara, D. C. Swain, D. Stobs, A. White.

(Since the foregoing was written Messrs. E. D. Roberts and G. C. Daniels have replaced Messrs. W. Cool and J. Deiderich as aldermen.

The police force numbers fourteen, and the fire department ten men, and these are under civil service commission, consisting of Messrs.



City Hall.

mayor and fourteen aldermen, representing the seven wards of the city.

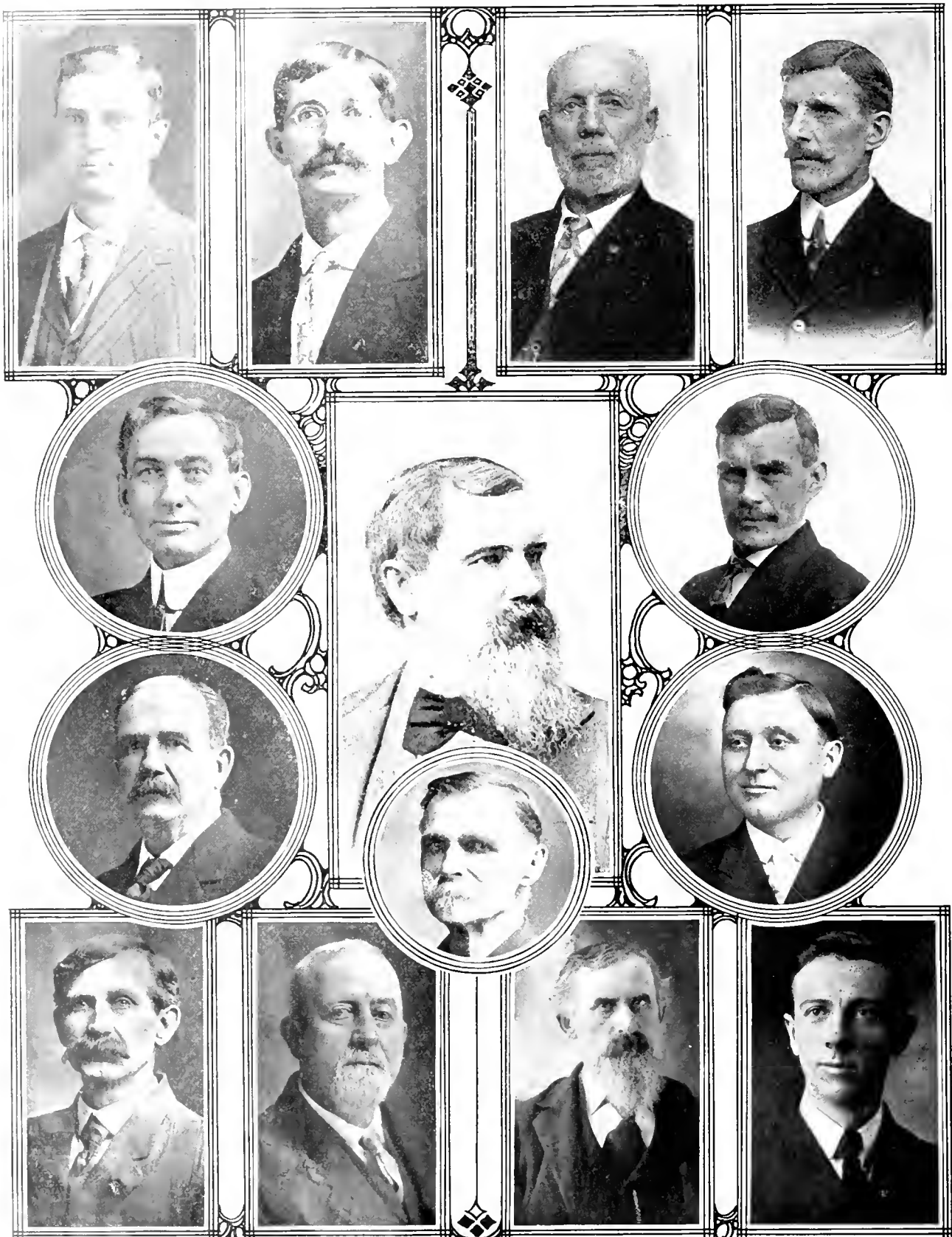
The present mayor is W. W. Bean, publisher of the Streator Monitor. Mr. Bean is now serving his third term as mayor, which speaks well for his popularity with the voters. The other officers are: Charles L. McNamara, clerk; Lloyd Painter, attorney; Louis Nater, treasurer; F. H. Renz, city engineer; Frank Owens, chief of the fire department; John Hopkins, chief of police; James Price, superintendent of streets.

Richard F. Purcell, E. M. Davis and I. C. Ames.

The three parks of the city are under the direction of a commission consisting of Edw. Reinel, Matt Bilger, W. L. Griffith, Mrs. Ozilla Richardson and Mrs. Louise Black. A regular appropriation is made yearly for this board and the city park of 11 acres is being improved and beautified under the plan and the directions of a professional landscape gardener.

#### **An Efficient Fire Department.**

The city supports an efficient fire depart-



MAYOR AND ALDERMEN, reading right to left— C. H. Haldeman, J. M. Hunter, D. D. Stobs, Henry Johnson, W. H. Atkinson, Mayor W. W. Bean, T. F. McNamara, John Gotch, L. F. Morgan, J. H. Jackson, John Diederich, Frank Marx, D. C. Swain, Wm. Cool. Alfred White is not in the group.

ment consisting of ten full paid men, including chief and assistant chief, two captains and six firemen. It is supplied with an ample equipment of hose and ladder wagons, fire hose, chemical tanks, etc. Available for fire use are 298 hydrants, always in good condition and ready for use. The chief states that there is ample water supply and the pressure is good, no matter how many streams are used. There are 41 miles of water mains in the city, ranging from 4 to 16

inches in diameter. On the new river bridge just built there are unpaid bonds of \$34,000. On the district and high schools there are outstanding bonds of \$65,000, of which Streator must pay its share as part of the school district.

The total assessment in the town of Bruce, in which Streator is situated, for the current year is \$152,601.08, of which only \$40,468 is for the city. The district schools receive \$57,080 and the high school \$23,388; the balance goes to



Fire Station No. 2.

inches in diameter. At the waterworks are two pumps, one of 5,000,000 gallons and one of 3,000,000 gallons capacity, so the water supply is always ample whatever may be the demand for fires. The department is supplied with a Gamewell and Gaynor fire alarm system, with connections covering the city on the streets and at central points.

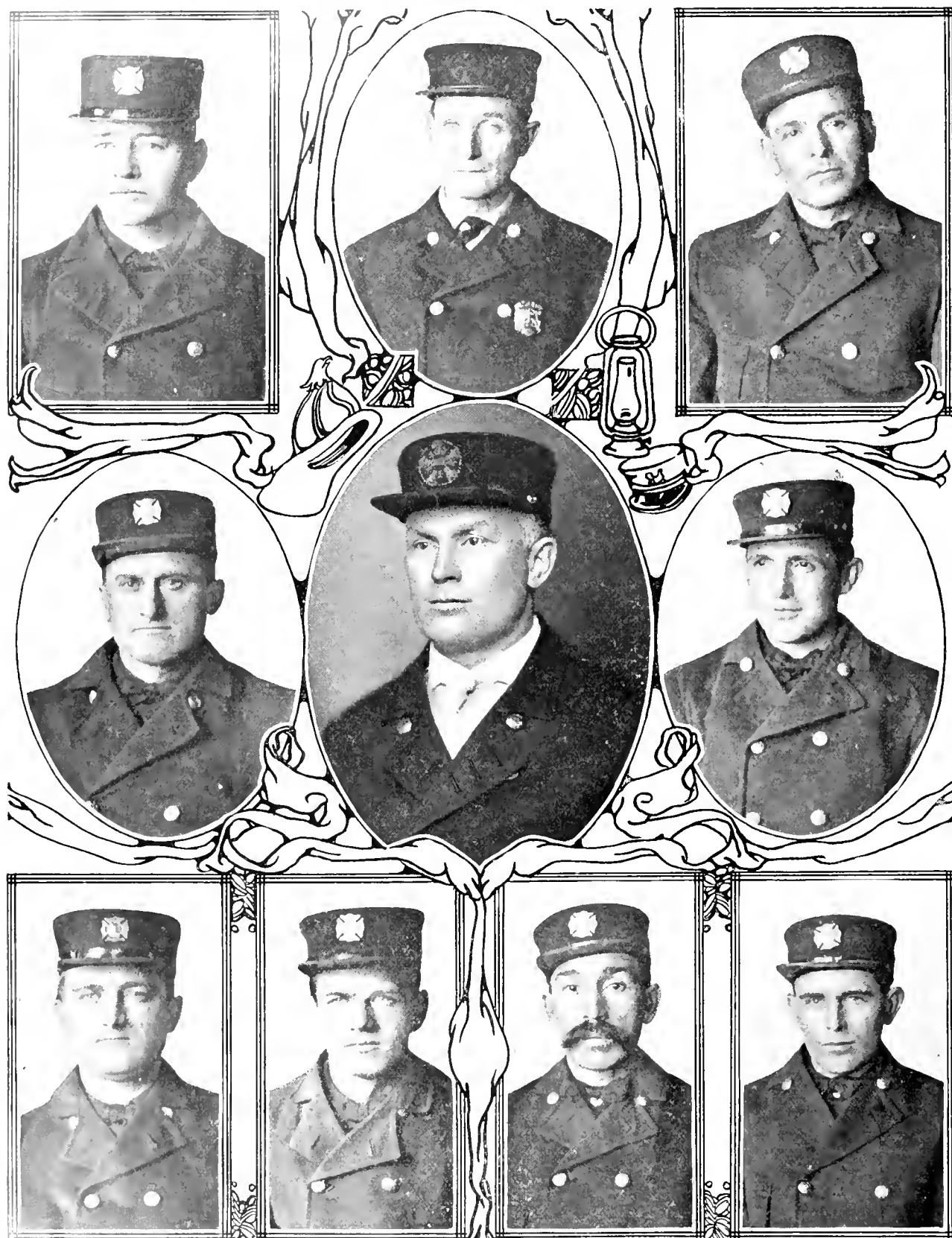
#### Light Taxes—Small Bonded Debt.

Taxation is light and there is little bonded

debt. On the new river bridge just built there are unpaid bonds of \$34,000. On the district and high schools there are outstanding bonds of \$65,000, of which Streator must pay its share as part of the school district.

The clearest statement of the rate of taxation is to say that property in Streator pays a yearly tax of about one and one-third per cent of its real value; that is, for each \$1,000 of property the owner pays approximately \$13.33 in taxes.





FIRE DEPARTMENT, reading from left to right—John Stringer, Asst. Chief Frank Buttery, Wm. Hawks, Chas. Marx, Chief Frank Owen, Clyde Conner, John Long, Samuel Conner, Andrew Palascak, Geo. Pinkney

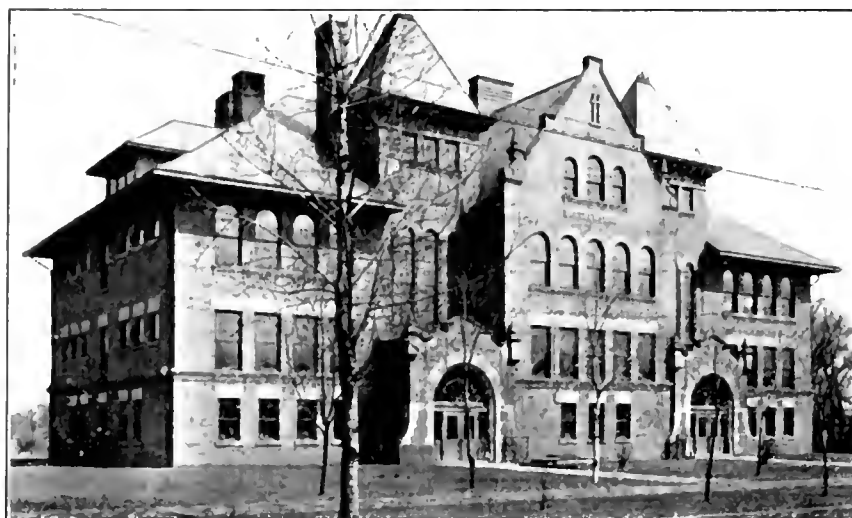


# EDUCATION AND RELIGION

SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, CHAUTAUQUA; STREATOR'S SUPERIOR CULTURAL FACILITIES.

Nothing so bespeaks the character of a community as its schools. No stranger could come to Streator and fail to be struck by the distinguished appearance of its school buildings. They are splendid structures of brick and stone, nearly all of modern construction, and equipped with the latest improvements for heating, ventilation, health and comfort. They present the most imposing architectural appearance of any of the structures in the city, and bear witness to the liberality and progressiveness of the people in dealing with education.

persistence with which they have grappled with the real problem of pedagogy, and no effort has been too great to obtain for Streator the best its means would afford, even when taxed to the limit of the law. Her standards have been high, and her demands on teachers rigorous. As a result some of the best teachers in the country have been attracted to Streator, and the course of study here is the product of some of the best brains in the profession. The noted pedagogical authority, J. N. Patrick, the scarcely less noted J. A. Long, and more lately the accomplished school executive, M. G. Clark



The Greeley School.

Probably no city its size and age can show a better material equipment for school work. During the past sixteen years Streator has built six new grade buildings at a cost as follows: Garfield, \$38,000; Plumb, \$30,000; Greeley, \$35,000; Grant \$45,000; Jefferson, \$8,000; McKinley \$8,000, aggregating \$164,000.

## Some Noted Schoolmasters.

But Streator has not been satisfied to rest content with her externals of education. Her school boards have been remarkable for the

have all been superintendents here. The present incumbent is Prof. J. G. Moore, who is retaining all the old values and applying them to new conditions.

## High Qualification of Teachers.

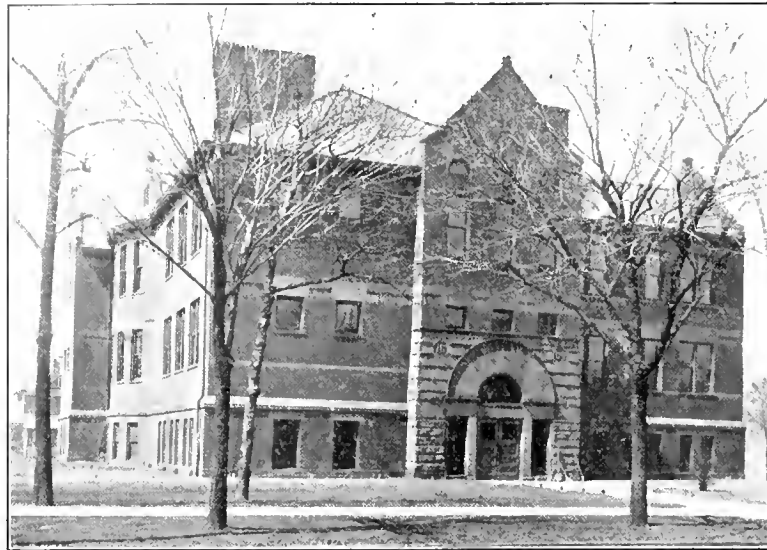
The course of study pursued combines all the wisdom of these school experts. The course is worked out by subjects by a committee of teachers in co-operation with the superintendent, and the work printed in a manual. It is a most thorough going system, and not commonly

used except in cities of large size.

There are sixty-five teachers employed, and the requirements are high. No teacher can be engaged who has not two years training, in ad-

dition to the high school course. In addition to the regular force, supervisors are also employed in manual training, in music, art and the domestic arts. There is also maintained a city

training school for teachers. As a result of all these activities the schools of Streator are recognized in the school world as among the most advanced, and ambitious teachers are anxious



The Garfield School.

dition to the high school course. In addition to the regular force, supervisors are also employed in manual training, in music, art and the domestic arts. There is also maintained a city

to come here for the value of the experience in its schools. The total enrollment of pupils for the current year is 2,300.

## STREATOR'S SPLENDID HIGH SCHOOL

The High School has a record that is even more distinguished. First, it has the memory of the revered philanthropist, Col. Ralph Plumb who gave the building to the city. Then it has a proud line of educators to look back on whose names are an honorable tradition. First is the name of Prof. Rinaldo Williams, which shines with a gentle and benignant lustre, over the distance of years and throws a mellow radiance over the early days of the school. He was for five years principal of Farm Ridge Seminary and ten years county superintendent of schools before coming to Streator to take charge of one of the first township high schools in the state. To his gentle and wise guidance the school owes its early direction and its fine distinction. Following him came an educator of even wider reputation, Prof. Alfred Bayliss, who remained principal until elected State Superintendent of Schools for Illinois. He was succeeded by another noted teacher, Prof. S. B. Hursh, now oc-

cupying a chair in the State Normal at Macomb.

### A Fine School Equipment.

The school has been growing with the years and in 1902 an annex was added which doubled its capacity. It is now amply supplied with the best modern equipment for educational work. It has a good manual training department fully equipped with lathes, planes, work benches and tools for working in wood and soft metal. In its domestic science department it teaches cooking, sewing, dressmaking, millinery, etc. The commercial department teaches short hand, typewriting, bookkeeping, business, law and all requirements of a thorough business education. And there has recently been added a teachers' course, designed to give such as desire it two years preparation for the work of teaching.

### Vocational Work.

While the usual branches preparatory to

college work are taught, increasing emphasis is being laid on vocational work. The aim is to help the pupil fill his niche in the industrial and social life of the community, and to fit him for the work he will be called on to do when he leaves school. Accordingly his studies are turned in the direction of his future vocation, and consultations are held between teachers and

enrolled 291 pupils who are taught by a force of fourteen teachers, all under the direction of Prof. O. A. Rawlins, principal.

#### Private Schools.

In addition to the public schools there are a number of private and parochial schools. The latter are three in number and are provided with good buildings and equipment, and give



High School.

parents to decide the line of study. At present there is a class in the handling of concrete work and other crafts will be taught as needed.

Recently the Streator High School was made one of four schools permitted to give one year of college work after graduation and have the pupil receive credit for it in the examinations of the University of Illinois. There are now

training in religion and instruction in the common branches. The American, German and Slavish schools have an enrollment of about 800 pupils. The Evangelical Lutheran church also conducts a school; Brown's Business College has 82 students. It furnishes opportunity for students to get an education in the evening, and is a growing and useful institution.

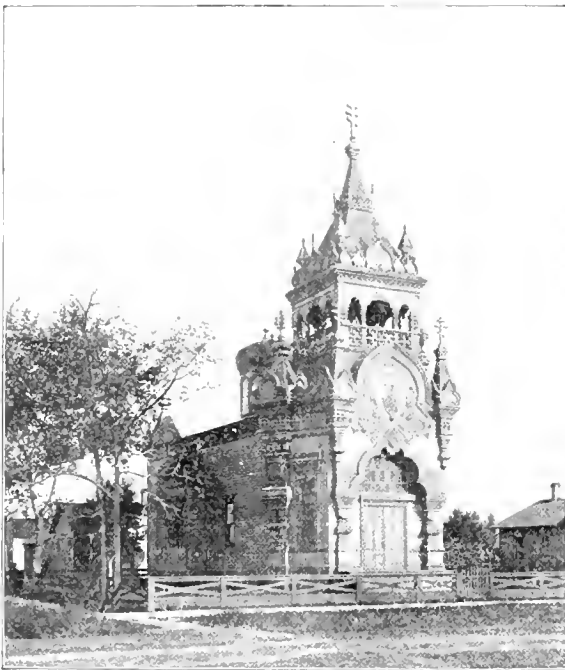
## RELIGIOUS AND CULTURE OPPORTUNITIES

The religious life in Streator is remarkable for its breadth and variety, as might be expected from so varied a population. Here are representatives of the oldest and the newest religious bodies. From Roman Catholic to Christian Science, each creed finds here equal hospitality and welcome. The English speaking Protestant people are represented by the usual Evangelical and Episcopal bodies, while the foreign born are ministered to by the Catholic, Russian Greek and Slavish, Swedish and German Evangelical churches. The stronger con-

gregations have built for themselves splendid church homes, and have an able, loyal and efficient ministry. Among the more imposing structures are the Methodist and Catholic churches, while the most unique is the Russian Greek church, which was brought from Russia as part of its exhibit at the Chicago World's Fair and afterwards transplanted to Streator. The Salvation Army has been the last to add to the number of church buildings, having just completed a very creditable brick edifice. Altogether there are about twenty church edifices in

the city.

Rev. W. C. Miles writes as follows about the religious attitude of the people: "A religious census was taken recently and reveals some interesting facts. It appears that practically all of the foreign element from whom information was obtainable are identified with some church, usually Catholic, Lutheran, German Evangelical or Russian Greek. The loyalty of these people to their faith is commendable. \* \* Of the whole population, American and foreign not identified with any church, nearly all express preference for some denomination of the Protestant faith. Comparatively few refuse to give information, and there were no confessed infidels."



Russian Greek Church.

#### Streator Chautauqua Assembly.

For a city so thoroughly industrial in its character as Streator its cultured interests are maintained in a really remarkable manner. It supports a Summer Chautauqua assembly which draws attendance from many miles around. Its programs are of the very highest class, and the most eminent men in the nation appear on its platform from year to year. Here too, are heard great artists, splendid musical organizations, and superb presentations of classical plays. The Chautauqua association owns a beautiful park of eighteen acres, right on the edge of the city, where it has erected a

magnificent steel auditorium capable of seating from four to five thousand people, with an ample stage, raised seats and covered standing room for a couple of thousand more people. On the grounds scores of white tents are erected each year and families from city and country enjoy the pleasure of out-door life amid pleasant social and cultural surroundings. The Chautauqua, too, brings the summer vacation to the thousands of industrial workers who cannot afford a trip to the lakes or mountains, and altogether it is a great boon to the city. The work of managing and operating it is performed by a group of public-spirited business men, who give their time and energy without stint and without cost, being animated by a desire only of serving the community.



Park Presbyterian Church.

#### The Sunday Evening Course.

The same social spirit is exemplified in the Streator Sunday Evening Course, an institution designed to minister to the educational and ethical needs of the city during the winter months. This feature is altogether unique, and supplies a free platform on which is heard the very finest talent in the lecture field on Sunday evenings. Eminent scientists and educators from near by universities are frequently heard, great readers like Bertha Kunz Baker, S. H. Clark, and Frederick Wards, distinguished singers and musical artists, illustrated lectures and noted public teachers like Edward Howard Griggs, William Norman Guthrie, Earl Barnes,

Charles Zueblin and others. This course is offered free to the people of the city, the cost being defrayed by the liberal citizens, some of whom contribute large sums for its support.

not less than \$50,000. It has a well-assorted collection of 16,000 volumes, embracing not only works of current literature, but also standard works on art, science, poetry, phil-



Public Library.

The course is largely patronized, and well illustrates the liberal and enterprising spirit of the people of Streator.

#### **Streator Public Library.**

The Streator Public Library is an institu-

tion of which the town is justly proud. The building is one of the benefactions of Andrew Carnegie. With the lot and accessories it cost

osophy and the like, for which there is a good demand. The city appropriates \$3,500 per year for its support. An ever increasing demand on the library is from the pupils of the public schools, and every help and assistance is given by the purchase of reference and other needed



tion of which the town is justly proud. The building is one of the benefactions of Andrew Carnegie. With the lot and accessories it cost

books. It is also much used by young men preparing for mechanical occupations. There is a good reading room containing a plentiful sup-

ly of magazines, journals and daily papers, which is well patronized. The librarian is Mrs. A. P. Wright; the president Mrs. A. S. Ross; and the secretary Mr. A. C. Reed.

#### **Women's Study and Social Clubs.**

Strangers moving to Streator will find no lack of opportunity for sociability or culture. It is remarkable for the number of its societies, its social and study clubs. Among the latter are a great variety of programmes suited to nearly ever taste. The Woman's Club is the largest and it has several departments, and one may work at philanthropy, civics, domestic arts, or other lines of study. Then there are the smaller groups, which include the Callere, the E Re Nata, the Philomatheon, the Klio, the Legensia, and the Twentieth Century Clubs. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union is strong and vigorous here, and carries on an important line of work. The churches and fraternal bodies all have auxiliary societies, and no woman coming here would find difficulty in finding contact and outlet for her social and intellectual energies.

#### **Streator Opera Club.**

Streator supports a choral society of about

one hundred members, and lovers of the art of song have no lack of musical or social opportunity. They aim to put on a light opera and a choral concert each year, also to assist in bringing symphonic orchestras and other fine music to town. The present year it brought here the state meeting of the State Music Teachers' Association, and gave Streator a festival week of music with great success.

#### **St. Mary's Hospital.**

The Sisterhood of St. Francis has taken on itself the care of the sick and injured of the town. The sisters have borne the burden of this work of charity for twenty-five years. From time to time their hospital has been extended and improved, keeping pace with the needs of the town and the advance of modern medicine and surgery. Today they are equipped for the care of seventy patients. The sisterhood in Streator numbers twenty—all of them laboring in this humane work, without other compensation than the rewards of religion and the gratitude of the community. The hospital charges are moderate, and provision is made for the care of a certain number without charge.



Ralph Plumb School.

# OUR PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS

THEATRES, SOCIAL CLUBS, CHAUTAUQUAS, FAIRS AND NUMEROUS OTHER AMUSEMENTS.

Streator is known as a lively town. All the year round there is something doing for the entertainment of the public. In the winter four theatres open their doors, offering all varieties of stage amusement. In the summer there are

weekly baseball matches, there are races, there is the big district fair, and the Chautauqua for the less hilariously inclined. The largest of the theatres is that devoted to the regular drama.

## PLUMB OPERA HOUSE

Plumb Opera House was erected by Colonel Plumb in 1883. He built it in the same spirit that he did the High School because he

thought the town needed it. He expected no profit from it, and was not disappointed. He wanted to give the people a place of public assembly, where they could hear the best things in music, drama and oratory under favorable conditions. For a number of years the auditor



Plumb Opera House.

thought the town needed it. He expected no profit from it, and was not disappointed. He wanted to give the people a place of public as-

sembly, where they could hear the best things in music, drama and oratory under favorable conditions. For a number of years the auditorium was occupied on Sundays for lectures and church services, and during the week for theatrical purposes; at no time have the ideals of



its builders been lost sight of, or the good of the community ceased to be a prime consideration in its conduct.

When the property passed into the hands of its present owner, Mr. Fawcett Plumb, the same motives prevailed. He rebuilt it in 1903 at a cost of about \$15,000 to adapt it to the needs of big scenic productions, and again re-decorated and improved at a cost of several thousand dollars.

This money has never been returned in the way of profits, so from a financial view, at least, the theatre has been as much a donation as the High School.

The theatre has been under the management of one man for twenty-six years, Mr. J. E. Williams, elsewhere referred to as the editor of this book. During all this time there have been associated with him Mr. George N. Tay-

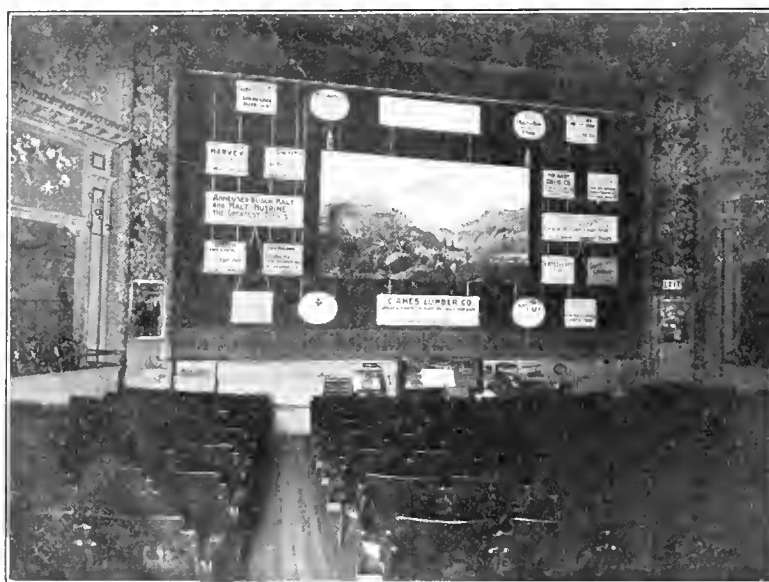
lor, head usher. The stage manager is Mr. Edw. Scheibel. Mr. Williams is well known as the Nestor among the managers of the Central West and as a speaker and writer on dramatic subjects. He is a national director of the Drama League of America.

The theatre is thoroughly equipped for staging and presenting any production that travels, and has a seating capacity of about 1,100. Streator is regarded by the profession as a first-class "show town." The best touring attractions on the road play Streator, and sometimes the reputation of the town and its manager brings companies that do not usually visit towns of this size. The season of 1911-1912, just closed, has been unusually brilliant, and Streator has been privileged to see a number of metropolitan casts and productions that seldom visit the night stands.

## THE MAJESTIC THEATRE

In addition to the opera house there are four theatres devoted to vaudeville and pictures, and of these "The Majestic" is the largest. It was built at a time when the popular taste was turning from the regular drama

tracting a large clientele to his house, and it has become very popular. He has given them not only vaudeville, but has played long seasons of "stock" drama, all at popular prices. These, alternated with motion picture entertainment



The Majestic Theatre.

to the lower priced form of entertainment, and has proved very successful. It was erected in 1907 by its present owner and manager, Mr. C. A. Day. Mr. Day has been fortunate in at-

tracting a large clientele to his house, and it has become very popular. He has given them not only vaudeville, but has played long seasons of "stock" drama, all at popular prices. These, alternated with motion picture entertainment



and. This large capacity, which is frequently tested, enables Mr. Day to put on quite expensive bills and give his patrons a great deal for their money. The Majestic is open every night

in the week and gives frequent matinees. Mrs. Day is associated with her husband in the conduct of the house.

## THE DAWN THEATRE

To the lovers of motion pictures, light vaudeville and song the Dawn Theatre commends itself; here each afternoon and evening throughout the year is presented one of the best five-cent entertainments to be found anywhere.

The theatre is located in the heart of the business district of the city, and its attractive entrance, as shown in the accompanying illustration is a seasonable introduction to a commodious and well appointed inside.

when tired feet announce the close of the shopping day and the wisdom of a half hour of rest, these people find in the semi-darkened Dawn Theatre, where the air is good, where the seats are comfortable and where a first class five-cent show is always in progress, just such a place as they are seeking, and it is a compliment to their sense and taste to know that they take advantage of it.

While the Dawn Theatre is the latest addi-



The Dawn Theatre.

The stage is ample, the house is softly but well lighted, exceedingly well ventilated and the exits are sufficient to clear the hall in less than a minute should exigency demand. In winter the place is comfortably heated and the well arranged fans along the walls keep the temperature right during the hottest days of summer.

The people of Streator realize the advantages of the Dawn Theatre, and of an afternoon

tion to the amusement houses of Streator, it is conceded to possess advantages above the others, and in no way is this superiority more marked than in the personality of him who conducts it.

The proprietor and manager of the "Dawn" is Mr. Charles Vance, who knows the business from end to end and who by training and association, knows the wants and wishes of the people whom he serves. Mr. Vance was a pio-

neer in the motion picture show business, has studied it in all its phases, has seen it from all its angles; he was the first man to open a five-cent play house in Streator that was back in the years when he who attempted it took a chance.



Charles Vance

In his experience covering many years in the north and the south, in cities large and small, Mr. Vance has had opportunity to learn the detail of the art and here in Streator now he is putting into practical effect the knowledge thus gained.

Charles Vance was born in this city, spent

his youth and grew to manhood here, and as a result knows everybody and everybody knows him. He is familiar with the habits and tastes of the people and secures for his house the things that please and appeal to them.

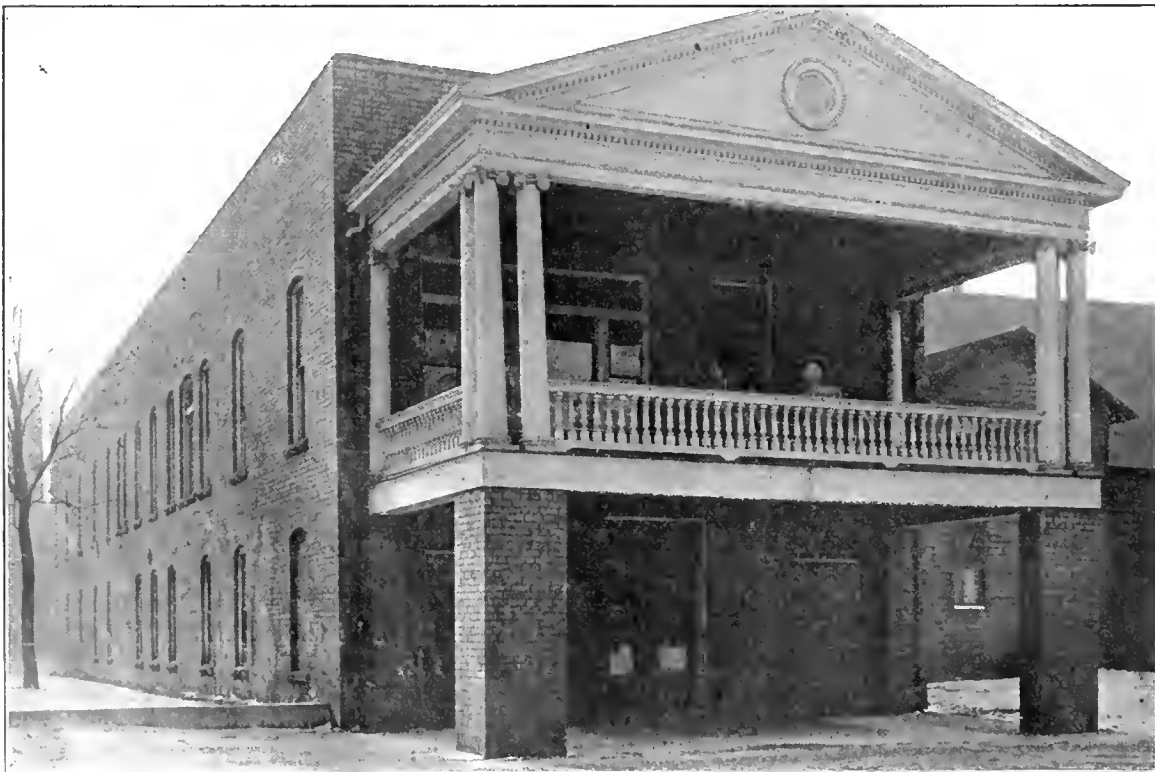
Apart from all this "Charley" is a good mixer and greets all with a cheerful graciousness that brings them back again. He is always there, looking after the wants of his patrons, extending to them those little acts of courtesy and thoughtfulness that never fails of big reward.

The "Dawn" has a seating capacity of 450, all of it on the ground floor on the Main street. Under such favorable conditions and with such a man at its head, it is no surprise that to the query "How is business?" one often gets the answer "Had to turn 'em away," when reference is had to The Dawn.

## THE STREATOR CLUB

The oldest of the city's social organizations is the Streator Club. In its membership

are the leading citizens of the town, the solid, substantial men, on whom rest the burdens of



The Streator Club House.

its business and industrial enterprises. It has been said that if the men on the roster of the Streator Club were suddenly wiped out there would be scarcely anyone left at the head of its most important concerns.

Although composed of business men, the function of the club is primarily social. Here after business hours they meet for relaxation and friendly converse. The admirable club building is equipped with all kinds of games, bowling, billiards, pool, cards and the like, and access to these is free to all members. During the winter season a number of club entertainments are given, such as lectures, concerts, card parties, social dances and the like, at which the families of members and invited guests meet for social enjoyment as guests of the club, without cost.

The spacious rooms of the club are often hospitably loaned to the public for proper pur-

poses for the promotion of matters relating to the good of the community. The club is broad and democratic in its spirit, is not an institution to create a narrow and exclusive coterie, but its doors swing hospitably open to worth and character in whomsoever found. Its rules forbid the sale or use of liquor on the premises, also gambling in any form.

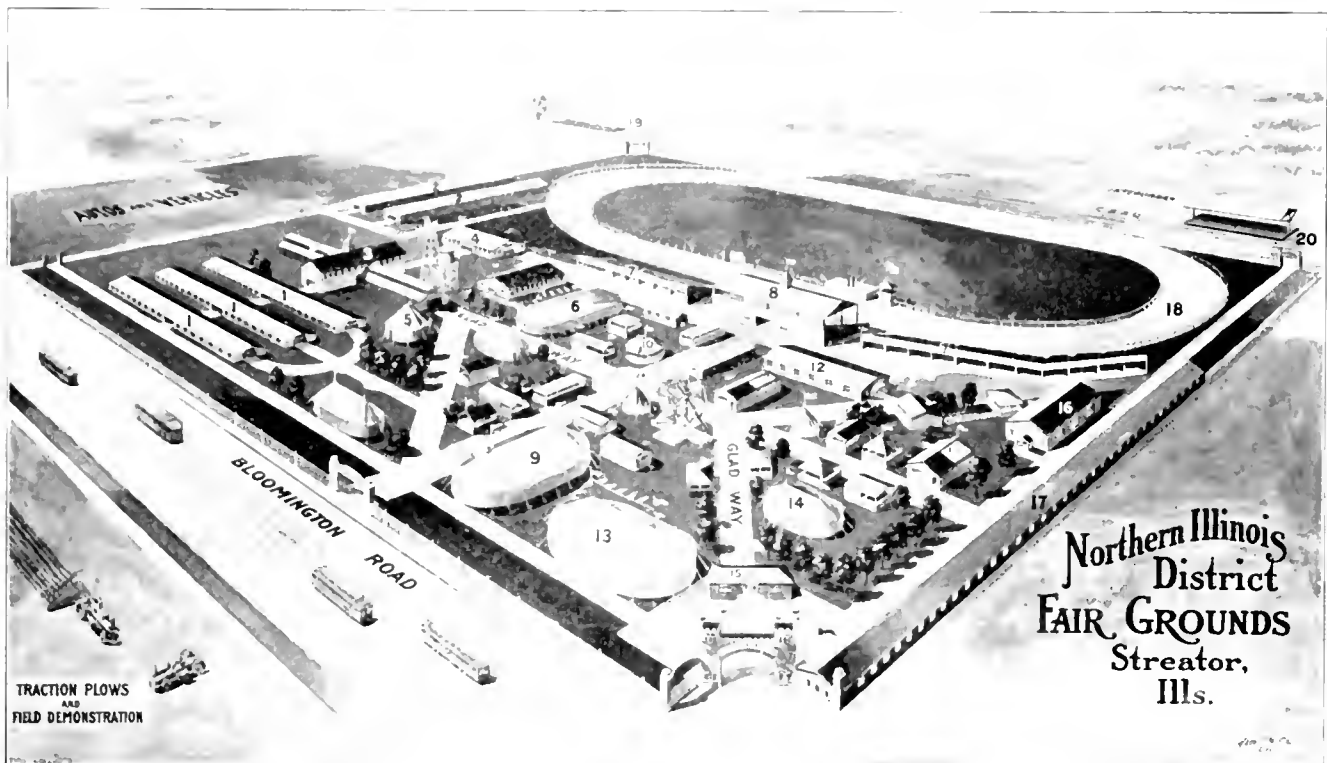
The club was organized in 1891, and its first officers were: J. C. Ames, president; W. H. Boys, vice president; M. J. Finlen, treasurer; W. L. Ross, secretary. In addition to the foregoing the following were directors: F. Plumb, Walter Reeves, M. W. Jack, E. H. Bailey, L. C. Cope.

At present the club has a membership of 189. The officers are: W. M. Griffiths, president; C. A. Miller, vice president; H. L. Manley, secretary treasurer.

## NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT FAIR

Streator offers many out door features for the delectation of visitors and its own people during the summer months, but by far overtop-

ing them all is the Northern Illinois District Fair, which is the largest institution of its kind in the state, outside the state fair at Spring-

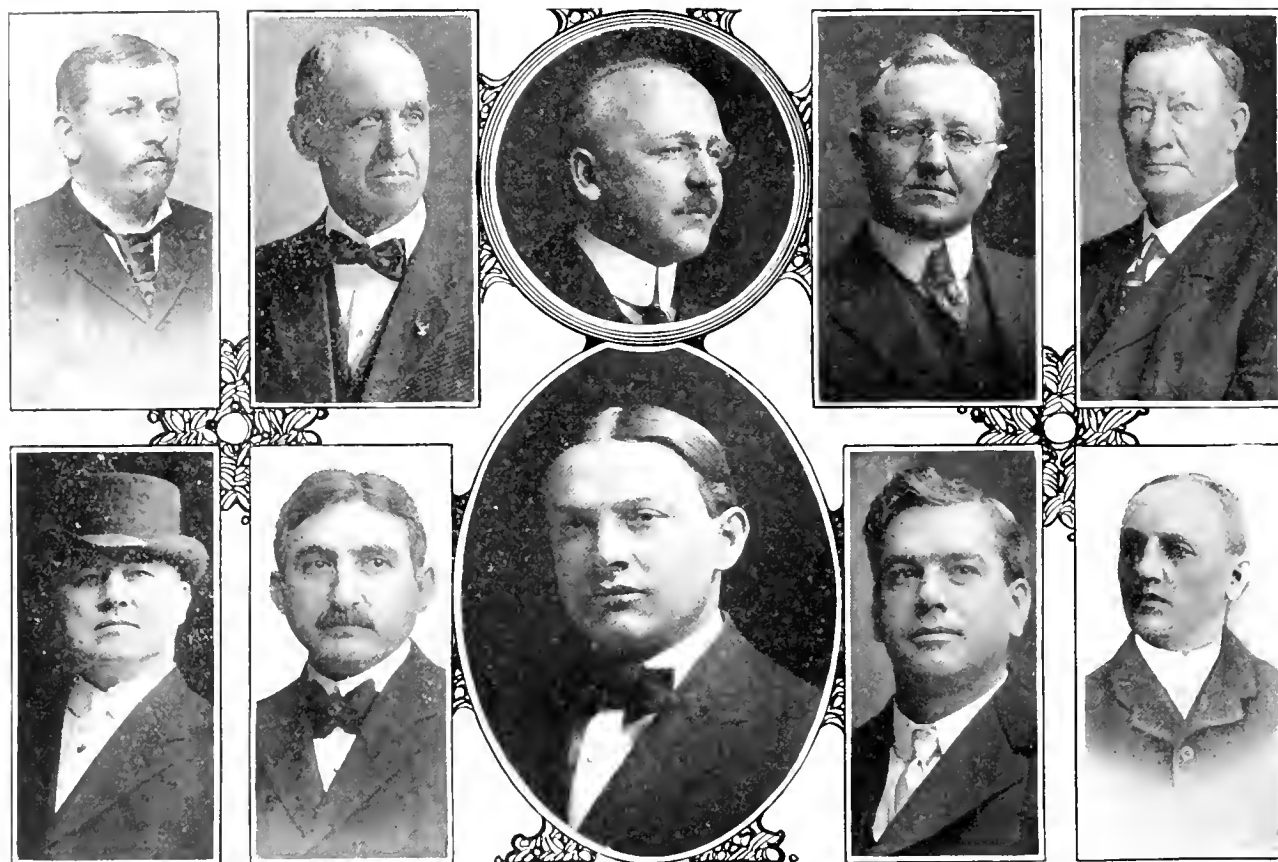


field. It will be held this year for six days, from Sept. 7 to 13, and it will be the Mecca for all lovers of recreation for hundreds of miles. It is expected that fully 100,000 people will attend, and the greatest aggregation of features has been brought together for their entertainment ever assembled at a District Fair.

It has an appeal for every taste. First, is the great agricultural exhibit, which will show the products of the richest farming district in the world—right at our own doors. Prizes will

The horse Show is always a fashionable sensation wherever it appears. It will be held at night in front of the grand stand, and the track will be brilliantly illuminated. A spectacular showing of the equine aristocracy of America is assured. A number of the classiest, high bred horses in the land are pledged to be here, including many noted prize-winners and fashionable favorites.

This is a great district for horse, cattle and sheep and hog breeders, and they are all coming



**NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT FAIR**—Officers and Directors (Reading from left to right)—Charles Holl, treas.; M. A. Bronson, Geo. Holcombe, mgr.; William H. Savage, John R. Knox, sec.; Arthur Wolfe, P. J. Lucey, Charles F. Wenninger, president; Guy C. Lakin, John W. Fornof.

be awarded for the best exhibits of farm products, all varieties, including fruits and flowers. The contest will be open to the ten counties of the district, which includes La Salle, Bureau, Lee, De Kalb, Kendall, Grundy, Livingston, Marshall, Woodford and Putnam.

The Educational Exhibit will bring out the best work of the schools of the district, and will give an immense stimulus to the thousands of children in country and city schools. This department is in charge of Prof. J. G. Moore, of the city schools.

to the Streator Fair to display their stock. Some of the most celebrated specimens of animal perfection in the world will be on exhibition. \$10,000 in cash premiums will draw them.

The Speed Programme will be a sensation, offering six \$1,000 stakes, as well as purses which aggregate to \$10,500. This will draw the swiftest of the steppers.

The Glad Way will give a festive air to the scene. On it will be the Great Patterson Shows with 25 different attractions, which include Ferris Wheel, Steeple Chase, performing ele-

phants, dens of lions, circuses, acrobats and a host of striking and amusing features. In front of the grand stand will be a platform on which many diverting and exciting performances will be given free at intervals.

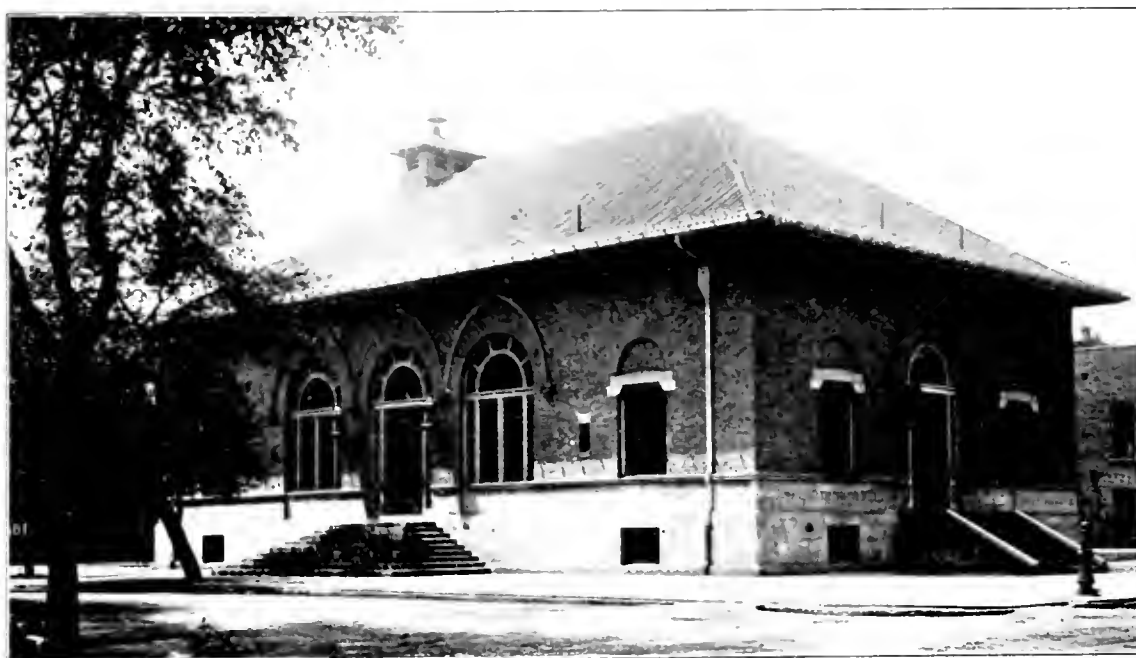
The Streator Trotting & Fair Association has spent about \$20,000 in permanent improvements in preparation for the Fair, such as

Floral Hall, Agricultural Hall, barns, etc., and a grand stand to seat 10,000 people. Everything will be conducted on the highest lines, no intoxicating liquors being allowed, or anything of objectionable character permitted. Space will not permit mention of the multitudinous features, but enough has been said to suggest the immensity of the enterprise.

## THE STREATOR POSTOFFICE

The government building in Streator is a monument to the local patriotism of Hon. Walter Reeves, through whose influence the structure was erected in 1900, while he was congressman from this district. It faces the park and is a solid, substantial structure, built of Streator vitrified brick, and conveys the impression of utility and massive dignity.

trebled, and the number of criticisms and complaints reduced to the minimum. The discipline of the force has been strengthened, but so permeated by the spirit of co-operation and mutual helpfulness, that it has been felt as a help rather than a hindrance. The federal government maintains a rigid and thorough going supervision of its postoffices, and its inspectors

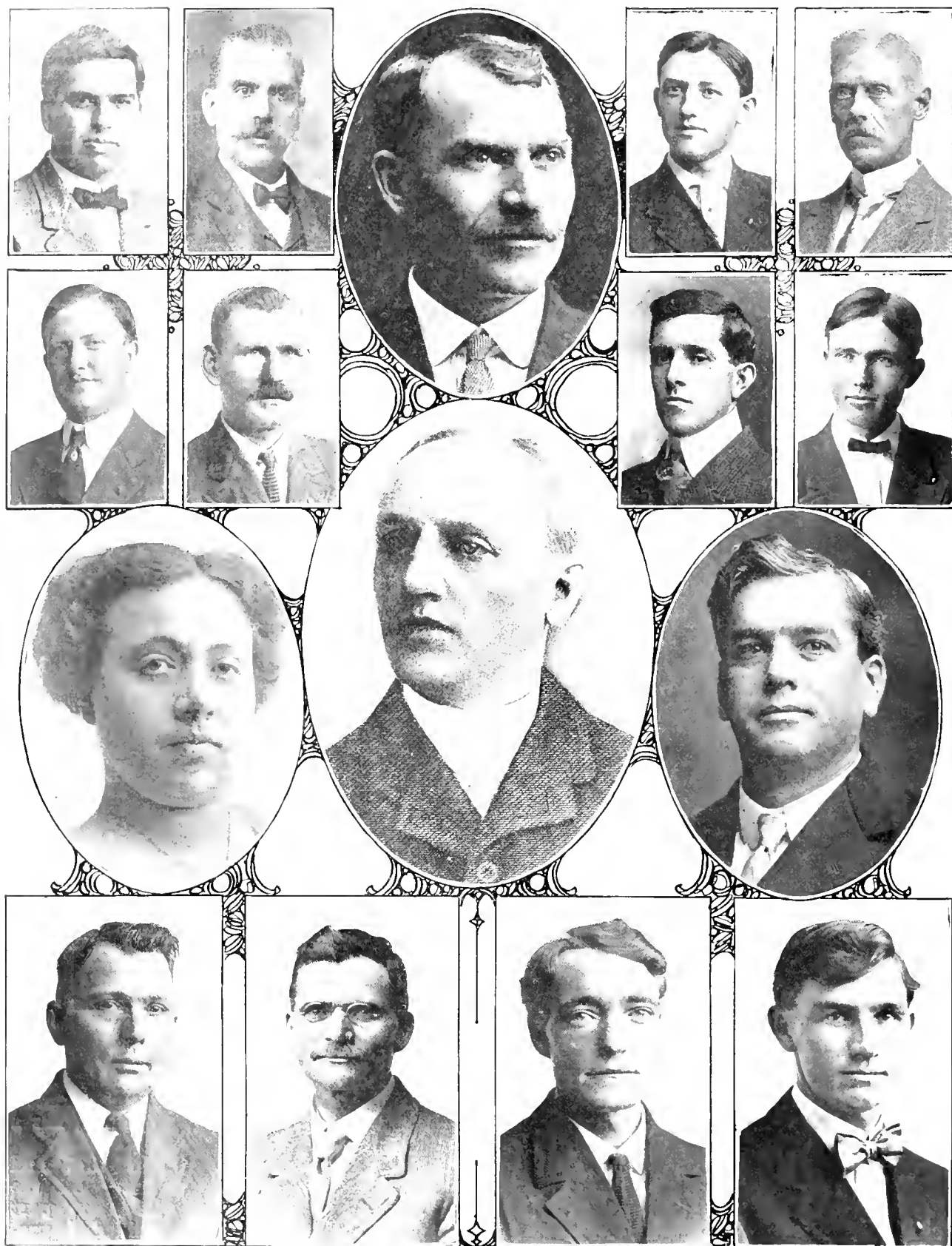


Government Building.

The chief representative of the federal government in Streator is Mr. J. W. Fornof, postmaster. Mr. Fornof was appointed by President McKinley in 1898, twice reappointed by President Roosevelt, and again by President Taft, making a period of fourteen years of continuous service. During this period the work of the postoffice has reached a high degree of efficiency. The business of the office has been

make searching examinations, but they have rarely found occasion for comment at Streator. Its money order department, especially, has a perfect record.

Mr. Fornof came to Streator in 1873 and found work at his trade as a printer on the Streator Free Press. Soon after he became part owner of the paper and has maintained his proprietary interest until the present time. Under



**STREATOR POSTOFFICE STAFF**— (Reading from left to right) —James S. Robb, Alex Suttie, John B. Milburn, ass't postmaster; William Arrandale, John F. Shoop, Herbert R. Sweetser, George Brunskill, Benjamin C. Hall, Alex McIntyre, Miss Myrtle Fornof, in charge of money order dept.; John W. Fornof, postmaster; Guy C. Eakin, capt. of carriers; William R. Broadfield, William Price, John Creber, Charles Hall. (Rural carriers not included in group.)



his management the Free Press prospered financially, and became one of the most powerful organs of the republican party in the interior of the state. Mr. Fornof wields a trenchant, incisive and fearless pen, and his editorials have been widely copied in the party press, especially on matters of economic and financial policy, on which he writes with conviction and authority. He has been president of the Republican Editorial Association of the Twelfth District since its organization, and it is not too much to say that Mr. Fornof has furnished many, if not most of the controlling "key note" articles and ideas which have found acceptance among his colleagues of the country press, and which have helped to shape party policy in the state.

The power of Mr. Fornof's pen has been recognized by party leaders in the state. He had charge of the literary work in Gov. Yates' gubernatorial campaign, and was a valued friend and lieutenant of Hon. Walter Reeves in his public life. He was assistant Sergeant-at-arms at the national convention that nominated President McKinley, and represented, by appointment of Gov. Tanner, the state of Illinois in the national congress on trusts in 1900. He

has been active in the local affairs of the city, especially in fraternal matters and out door sports. He has been vice president of the Streator Trotting and Fair Association, and is one of the promoters of the Northern Illinois District Fair. He has been president of the Streator Club, the Golf Club and the Illinois Valley Golf Association.

The next in command to Mr. Fornof in the Streator office is Mr. John B. Milburn, assistant postmaster. Mr. Milburn is an ex-coal miner, one of the many English miners of Streator who have found their way out of the mines by self-education and through their own inherent force of character and ability. Mr. Alex Suttie, register clerk, is another ex-coal miner, and leader of labor forces. In the office too, are Messrs. Guy Lakin, superintendent of carriers; E. Jordan, distributing clerk; John Haney, night clerk; Miss Myrtle Fornof, money order clerk; and Miss May Harrington, general delivery clerk. In addition there are eleven city carriers and eight rural delivery carriers, making a total of twenty-seven employees of the government in the Streator postoffice.

## THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

The Public Service Company of Northern Illinois is Streator's latest acquisition. As its name implies its business is to serve the public. It is a purveyor of power. It gathers energy from its natural sources, coal and water, converts it into electricity, transmutes it again into light, heat or mechanical power, and delivers it to the factory, the business house, the home, or wherever needed.

It is a public servant. Unless it can serve the people it cannot succeed. It has made immense investments in Streator. Its scale of expenditure contemplates the development of the city to much larger proportions than at present, and unless Streator grows the investments will not yield adequate returns. The fortunes of the Public Service Company are linked with those of Streator, and it is committed by its investments to work for the progress of the city. It comes, therefore, as a powerful reinforcer of the forces that are working for its upbuilding, and it is able as well as willing to give valuable assistance in promoting its permanent prosperity.

### What It Can Do for Streator.

What can the Public Service Company do for Streator?

1. It can place it with respect to its power supply in as favorable position as Chicago or any city in the west.

2. It can give it a power supply for manufacturing or other purposes, that is absolutely dependable—guaranteed against interruptions or failure of supply.

3. It can, indeed it must, furnish this service at a cost that will be advantageous to the user. Otherwise it cannot get a volume of business that will yield returns on the investment.

The Public Service Company is able to do these things because it is itself a great and powerful institution, perhaps the greatest in the west in its line. It has at its command practically unlimited capital, and the services of one of the finest corps of supervisors and workers in the world. In the development of modern electrical business it has been found that scope of operations and magnitude of output are most important factors in economy of

production. The grouping of a large number of towns and cities in one system make for economies and efficiencies that would not be possible to a single unit of production, and the wide scope of operations of the Public Service Company enables it to give this advantage to its patrons.

#### **Discovery of Improved Transfers.**

Only within recent years has this economy of service by the grouping of consumers been possible. So long as there was no efficient medium of transmission, the individual unit of production had to get along as best it could. But with the discovery of the improved transformer, a new era opened up—the era of combination and consolidation. Towns and villages that had hitherto been isolated and detached, struggling along with primitive and wasteful methods, now became connected into groups and systems, and it became possible for the smallest hamlets to enjoy the economies of the collective output and consumption—be as well off, in fact, as the city.

What did the improved transformer do?

It enabled the producer to use a much higher voltage than before had been possible. Whereas a few years ago it had been limited to the use of a direct current of 500 volts, and that only for short distances, it was now enabled to use a 100,000 volt alternating current which could be sent with little loss for practically unlimited distances. The gain in efficiency was almost in the ratio of the voltage, and it became possible to utilize high tension current at great distances from the point of generation. Thus has the improved transformer helped to solve the problem of the transmission of power, and with it the problem of the unification and consolidation of the interests of widely severed communities.

#### **The Modern Central Power Plant.**

Growing out of this were other economies, notably the utilization of the advantages of the modern central power plant. Formerly the local plant contented itself with a coal-wasting, man-killing, tubular boiler; now the big plant has a water tube boiler with its large area of fire contact, its patent stoker, uniform fuel feed, etc. Again the little plant had an old-fashioned slide valve engine which leaked about a quarter of the steam; while the modern plant has a compound condensing Corliss, or a steam turbine. (The Commonwealth Edison Company recently imported a 40,000 Parson's steam turbine from England.) The old gen-

erators used to be handicapped by a long drive belt; in the modern plant it is driven directly off the engine shaft.

In these and many other ways the big central power plant, generating a large output and serving a wide territory, is able to effect enormous savings over the old methods. Add to these the immense advantage of the employment of the best talent the country affords in all the departments of electrical service, talent which no individual concern could pay for, and no one can doubt the benefit of the co-operation brought about by modern institutions such as the Public Service Company.

#### **The Load Dispatcher.**

But the most important service, indeed the one indispensable service, the Co-operative system has given to Streator is the relieving it of the fear of interruptions and break-downs. A service that is at the mercy of one generating plant, with its recurring accidents and stoppages is simply impossible in these modern days. Since the introduction of the loop system by the Public Service Company Streator has become a station on a circuit that has many centres of generation, and its supply is as certain as that of Chicago with which it is connected.

Presiding over this co-operative circuit, with its many centres of generation and distribution is an officer called the load dispatcher, who corresponds in a way to a railroad train dispatcher. Shut out from the world, in a little room by himself, the load dispatcher guides the electrical current on its circuit. In front of him is a switch board, on which every town is marked with a lamp, and the widely ramifying lines connecting towns are under the control of his switch. An accident or break on any line is immediately noticed by him, and the current is shunted at once to some other route. Thus it is impossible for any town to be cut off from the source of supply for more than a few moments, and the several different sources are always on tap and ready to respond.

#### **The Need of Uniform Use.**

To secure the maximum benefit of the economies suggested herein, it is necessary there should be an adequate and well distributed volume of business. This cannot be secured by the use of the plant for lighting alone, for then the operative period is concentrated into a period of three hours, and the system with its heavy charges of investment and service is non-productive for the balance of the time. Thus it is that the company is striving to induce the use



of electricity in factories and work shops. It feels that it can more than equal the value of any other form of power to its users, and so aims ultimately to be the main power producer of the town. When this is done the full benefit of the Public Service Company to Streator will be realized, and it will be recognized as one of the greatest factors in promoting the welfare of the city.

#### **Solves the Servant Girl Problem.**

The use of electricity is as yet in its infancy. The time is not far distant when most of the labor of the farm or home will be done by it. Even now it has ceased to be a luxury and has become a household necessity. A fan can be run for less than a cent an hour, and the family washing can be done for 25 cents per month. Toasters, percolators, vacuum cleaners, ironers are in common use, and the servant girl problem is in a fair way of being solved by the electric current.

#### **A Reconstructed Gas Plant.**

The Public Service Company deals also in gas for light and heating, and already \$40,000 has been spent in reconstructing the plant and converting it from a coal to water gas system. More must be spent in renewing the distributing system, which when completed will be thoroughly modern and up to date. It will be able

to demonstrate that gas is more economical for many purposes than coal, and will be ready to furnish glass and other furnaces with gas for melting purposes.

#### **Traction System Rebuilt.**

The traction system is also in process of reconstruction and will require the expenditure of a large sum of money. When completed new street cars will be added, and Streator will have as fine an urban traction system as any city of its class in the west. As the city grows this system will spread out to reach new districts and make connections with new factory areas that will spring up outside the city.

#### **Inducement to New Factories.**

In conclusion, the Public Service Company can be of immense value to Streator in offering as an inducement to new factories a thoroughly dependable supply of absolutely unlimited power. The advantage to a new industry of being relieved of the necessity of erecting a costly power plant, with its expensive labor and fuel expenditure, its liability to accidents and stoppage of business, its dirt, waste and discomfort, is an advantage hardly to be computed. And the company offers this service to Streator in a degree equalling any, and surpassing many, cities of the west.

## **STREATOR INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH COMPANY**

Few public service corporations enjoy more cordial relations with patrons and public than does The Streator Independent Telephone & Telegraph Company.

If there was any fear that poorer service would follow when the "Independent" consolidated with the "Bell," that fear has long ago been dispelled.

The "Independent" has the good sense to realize that no concern has to be more considerate in dealing with its customers than one which enjoys a partial or complete monopoly. Consequently its policy has been to do everything humanly possible to keep its service at the highest point of efficiency; to meet every complaint promptly; to be on the alert to meet and even anticipate the wants of every patron. That it has been successful in this ambition is evidenced by its long and increasing list of patrons.

The "Independent" was established here in 1901. It started with 300 subscribers. The "Bell" was already on the ground and was solidly entrenched in the business section. In four years the Independent's patrons had increased to 1443, while its rival showed no progress. In 1911 it was found expedient and economical to merge the two telephone systems and when the Independent took over the Bell it added only 16 city telephones to its list, showing conclusively that the Bell 'phone was only kept as a duplicate, or for long distance convenience. The merger proved a great economy to subscribers, as it enabled many of them to do away with the expense and annoyance of two 'phones. It also avoided the duplication of expense caused by the maintenance of two systems.

In 1905 the "Independent" moved from its quarters in the Opera House Block to its own

building, a substantial brick structure, designed especially for telephone purposes. The best equipment that money could buy was installed

been increased year by year until it now has reached the grand total of 2,500 subscribers, about 2,000 of them being the city and about

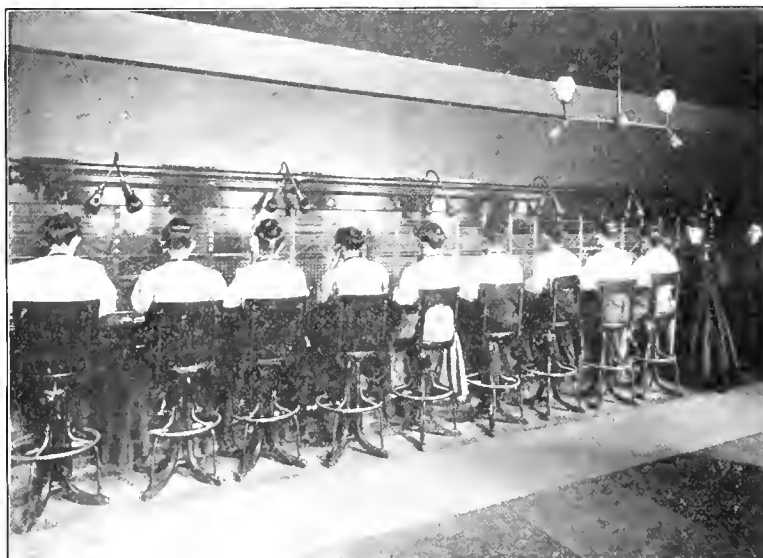


Home of Telephone Company.

in the new building, while outside many valuable and costly improvements were made; wires were placed under ground in the business sec-

500 in the country.

This policy of maximum efficiency has not been limited to the mechanical department,



Switchboard and Operators.

tion, while elsewhere cables were substituted for open wires wherever practical.

This constant striving for efficiency has been appreciated and the list of patrons has

but has been emphasized in the organization of the office force. The human element, the liability to carelessness and indifference, has been safeguarded in the most ingenious man-

ner. Supervision has been reduced to a fine art, and there is no opportunity for shirking or neglect on the part of the employes to pass unnoticed. So obvious is this that if an irate customer comes in with a complaint against the "Hello Girls," the readiest reply is to take him into the operating room and show him the girls at work. What he sees is this:

A row of girls before the switchboard, each of them seriously intent on handling the multitudinous calls that come in. Behind them walks the supervisor, pacing continuously back and forth on a cork walk, watching with alert eye the movements of every girl, more vigilant than a policeman on his beat. At a desk sits a monitor and before her is an apparatus that enables her to cut in and listen to every word the operator is saying, whether polite or impolite, or whether she is merely neglectful. And over all is the chief operator with watchful eye on the whole force and exercising a discipline that cannot be evaded.

When the complaining customer sees all these arrangements for the protection of patrons he usually throws up his hands and has no more kick coming.

To be sure there are causes for complaint, for human service is not infallible, but it is not where the impetuous customer is most apt to place it on the shoulders of the "Hello Girl,"

but wherever it is, the management is always anxious to remedy it, and spares no labor or expense to give the most perfect service possible and keep its customers satisfied and friendly.

The amount of business done is enormous, surpassing the conception of even those familiar with the phone. Each day of the year these girls have to listen to and transmit 20,000 calls, and to each of these, whether gruff or kind, has to preserve a smooth, even voice and respectful demeanor, whatever her personal condition or feeling may be. That this immense volume of business is handled daily with so slight a percentage of error is a marvel, and arouses admiration for the organization and discipline that makes it possible.

To handle this mass of business requires a force of 55 people, of whom 35 are switchboard operators, 5 are in the office department, and 15 in the maintenance and construction force.

The owners of the company are a number of business men of Aurora, Illinois. Mr. L. R. Parker is the secretary and general manager, and Mr. A. R. Patterson is local manager. Mr. Patterson is a Streator product, is a popular member of the Elks and other societies, takes an active part in the social and public life of the city, and no doubt the good feeling with which the company is regarded is due measurably to the popularity of its local representative.



Streator lends liberal support to the national game, and is a member of the Illinois and Missouri League. The above is a picture of the Streator League team for 1912.

# RULERS OF THE CITY

A GROUP OF NOTABLE EX-MAYORS OF STREATOR AND A BRIEF HISTORY OF THEIR LIVES.

## HON. J. C. AMES.

One of the most prominent figures in the political life of Illinois is Hon. J. C. Ames, and one of the most valued counsellors and leaders of his party. His first important political office was mayor of the city of Streator, to which he was elected by the republican party in 1885 at the close of the administration of Col. Ralph Plumb. He had been alderman in the council of his distinguished predecessor, and gave him able support in shaping the policies of the new city. He was re-elected in 1887. His administrations were concerned with foundational measures of municipal development, the starting of a scientific sewer system, the settling of the question of water works, the planning of grades for streets and sidewalks, etc.

At the end of his second term Mr. Ames retired from public life to devote himself to his growing business, but his genius for politics was such that his party friends were constantly calling for his help and his amiability was such that he could not say no. Besides, he liked it; the congenial companionship, the opportunity for giving service, the excitement of party contests all appealed to him. And so J. C. Ames became a familiar figure at conventions; his af-

fability and friendliness, his tact and his insight into character, brought his talents into frequent demand by party leaders, and he became known as one of the most influential republicans in the state.

Never obtrusive, his name figured rarely in public prints, nor was he ever found in the lime light, which seems so alluring to public men. His power lay in his wide acquaintance with the strong men of the state, in the towns and villages as well as in the cities and in their personal good will toward him. Few men in the public life of the state have been so genuinely liked or had so many warm friends. His position made it possible for him to confer many benefits, and he never begrudged the time or labor to do a man a good turn, and never let an opportunity to do a service pass unimproved. And it all sprang from a heart naturally disposed to geniality and kindness, and whatever benefits were conferred were given and accepted as from a friend, and they made friends wherever John Ames' kindly smile and hearty hand



Hon. J. C. Ames.

clasp went with them. It was impossible that political talents such as his should remain confined to the lumber business, and so his time came to be claimed more and more by his party. In due time came substantial public recognition. He was appointed president of

the Illinois and Michigan Canal Commission by Gov. Pifer. Later he was appointed Marshal for the district of Northern Illinois by President McKinley, and re-appointed by President Roosevelt. He now occupies the position of Collector of the Port of Chicago, to which he was appointed by President Roosevelt and re-appointed by President Taft. In this important office he has made an exceptional record for efficiency and thorough-going business methods. Some idea of the magnitude of its transactions may be had from the fact that \$50,000,000 in currency passes through the collector's hands annually. Mr. Ames also holds the office of custodian of the Government Building in Chicago with its nearly five hundred employes, and its manifold responsibilities. Though the stress of many labors have impaired his former rugged health, Mr. Ames may be found at his desk every morning, and gives as scrupulous attention to the business as would any young department manager starting to make a record. But he is never too busy to give the glad hand to an old fellow-townsmen, or to do him a favor, as the writer can testify.

J. C. Ames was born in Freedom Township, La Salle County, July 17, 1852. His father was a pioneer settler, coming in 1848. Young Ames worked on the farm in summer and went to school in winter. He had two years at State Normal to finish his education. He came to Streator in 1872 and entered the drug business with the firm of Dickerman & Ames. Next he went into the hardware business with his father as J. Ames & Son. They were burned out in 1875, and he continued the business alone until 1885. In 1878 he founded the lumber business which is now known as the J. C. Ames Lumber Company, and of which he is still the president and principal owner. Notwithstand-

ing his important political activity he has always retained his interest in his home town, has been president of one of its banks and has had an active part in all movements looking to its upbuilding.

## HON. W. H. BOYS.

The fifth mayor of Streator was William H. Boys, a man who has since rendered the most distinguished services to the state of Illinois that it has been within the power of any member of the bar to perform in our generation.

Mr. Boys was mayor of Streator from 1891 to 1893, after a term of service as city attorney. During his term of office he demonstrated a fact the truth of which is often denied, namely, that it is in the power of the executive to enforce the laws if he has the will and disposition. He broke up public gambling immediately, and caused the sports to hide their gambling devices and keep them under cover during his administration. Next he turned his attention to the saloons, and found the task more difficult. Finally he got an ordi-



Hon. W. H. Boys.

nance through the council clothing the mayor with the power to revoke licenses. Promptly on being vested with this power Mr. Boys revoked the licenses of a couple of saloon-keepers, and for the balance of his administration they obeyed the laws. He was no extremist on the liquor question, but was simply determined to keep his oath of office and enforce the statutes and ordinances.

This gave the public its first glimpse of the man who was later to carry to a triumphant conclusion the greatest legal battle to which the State of Illinois has been a party. The

same resolute perseverance, the same unwavering determination that brought the lawbreakers of Streator to time, were displayed in the case of the Illinois Central railroad, a case characterized by the Supreme Court as the most important in its legal issues, and in magnitude of financial interests that had ever been tried in Illinois.

#### **The Illinois Central Case.**

Under its charter with the state the Illinois Central Railroad was required to pay in lieu of other taxes seven per cent. of its "gross proceeds, receipts and income." The state administration charged that the railroad was not paying in the required amount, and Mr. Boys was appointed special counsel for the state. Then followed years of exhaustive and brain-racking investigation. The tremendously involved system of railroad accounting and financing had to be studied, and the multitudinous details of a great system had to be gathered, co-ordinated and interpreted. The law applicable to the facts had to be discovered, and the legal theory of the case thoroughly worked out. The enormous labor of this gigantic task fell upon the shoulders of W. H. Boys, and that he was able to thread his way through the labyrinth maze of railroad figures, purposely covered and complicated, and emerge with a clear, definite conception of the law in the case, is a greater tribute to his intellectual capacity and legal acumen than any verbal eulogy, however eloquent.

#### **Sustained By Supreme Court.**

He found twenty-one different items which the railroad had failed to include in its report to the state. They consisted of such earnings as revenue from switching charges, express carriage, dining cars, rent of terminal facilities, income from the Cairo and Dubuque bridges, unfair division of mileage between chartered and unchartered lines, and many other sources. Beaten in the Circuit Court, the case was taken to the Supreme Court, and Mr. Boys had the immense satisfaction of having the highest court in the state sustain him in eighteen out of the twenty-one points he had raised.

Uncounted millions were involved in this suit, for it affected not only seven per cent on the earnings of the road in the past years, but also its earnings in the centuries that are yet to come. And it marked also one of the greatest upreachings of civic conscience in its dealings with large corporations, and a victorious

assertion of the power of the people of the state through the courts.

This is an epic as yet unsung. Even the people of his own town scarcely recognize the magnitude of this achievement, and it is one of the pleasant uses of this chronicle to set forth with fitting emphasis the great achievements of men so near to us in their daily walks that we scarce sense their heroic quality. There has not been a bigger thing done than this in our generation in the strife between law and privilege, and it will not be seen in its due perspective until the battle between state and corporation is set down by the future historian.

#### **Eulogized By Supreme Court.**

But sweeter than praise of history to the participants is the judgment of the Supreme Court, which laid aside its dry, judicial manner to warmly praise the splendid quality of the work done by the lawyers, of which a large part was done by Mr. Boys. Says the court in its decision:

"The case has been fully and ably presented by distinguished counsel. The briefs and arguments in many respects might well serve as models. They have been of great assistance in the investigation of the complicated matters involved in this litigation. Every subject has been so exhaustively presented that practically nothing could be added, and yet so well arranged, indexed and condensed that no unnecessary labor was required to understand fully the questions in dispute."

The counsel for the Illinois Central was J. M. Dickinson, afterwards called into the president's cabinet as Secretary of War. Associated with Mr. Boys was Attorney General Stead and later Major John H. Widmer and Judge B. B. Lincoln, of Ottawa, who equally shared with him the honors of the victory.

The application of the principles laid down in the Supreme Court decision is still in progress. Mr. Boys is still special counsel for the state, and probably will continue until the principles of the decision are translated into dollars which the railroad must pay.

#### **Partnership With Mr. Reeves.**

In 1891 Mr. Boys formed a partnership with Hon. Walter Reeves under the name of Reeves & Boys, and plied the laboring oar of that firm during Mr. Reeves' public career, and until his death. In 1905 he was appointed first assistant attorney general of the state, and later was made chairman of the Railroad and Warehouse Commission. While in this office important

work was done in equalizing and reducing switching rates in the state, and in the enforcement of separate grade crossings wherever practicable. After two years of service the illness of his partner, Mr. Boys, caused him to resign, and he returned to take up the active work of the firm, which after the passing of the senior partner was changed to Boys, Osborne and Griggs.

### An "Ordinary" Life.

Asked by the writer for some significant facts about his life, Mr. Boys replied laconically, "It's been blamed ordinary," and that speaks not only for his absence of pretense, but for the absence of the romantic or the extraordinary in his career. Born on a farm in Marshall County in 1862, he moved with his folks to Streator in 1871, attended high school here, and also studied at Hedding College at Abingdon. He worked at telegraphy, read law with Judge T. M. Shaw, of Lacon, was admitted to the bar, practiced law for a year in Kansas, came back to Streator and has been here ever since. He has shirked no duty as a citizen, has borne the brunt of many a hard political battle as a leader of the republican workers of the county, was for many years president of the high school board and whether in law, politics or citizenship, has always been found where the hardest working or fighting was to be done.

## HON. P. J. LUCEY.

Most popular among the democrats who have been elected mayor of Streator is Mr. P. J. Lucey. Not only is this indicated by the fact that he is the only member of his party who

has been elected to the office of mayor three times; but it is further attested by the fact that he has recently been elected at the primary election to be his party's candidate for attorney general of the state of Illinois.

Popularity is nowhere subjected to so severe a test as at a primary election. In a general election the momentum of party may carry an indifferent candidate through, but in a primary election where a man is one among many to submit himself to the judgment of his party, he must stand on the strength of his own bare and naked personality. That a



Hon. P. J. Lucey.

young man, still on the sunny side of forty, should have so deeply impressed his fellow democrats all over the state of Illinois, shows a quality that is certainly marked and unusual. In the midst of a hot struggle, wherein the party was torn with fierce inward strife, Mr. Lucey went quietly about the business of his candidacy, identifying himself with none of the warring factions, but offering himself simply on his merits as a man and a lawyer; and so, without the backing of boss or clique, to bear off the coveted prize with ease is the mark of no ordinary political strength.

Whether he will occupy the office of attorney general or not depends on the strength of his party—and in Illinois it will need another landslide to carry it to success. But he has already received a higher endorsement than would be the accident of an election—the endorsement of his party as its standard bearer in one of the most promising, yet most difficult, campaigns it has made in the state of Illinois.

How did so young a man get so far to the front in Illinois politics?

First, it may be said, he started right. That is, he started poor. He started without friends and without rich relatives to "pull" or

lost" for him, and so his native strength got a chance to develop in his struggle to make a place for himself.

Next, he chose the right place to start. He came to Streator as soon as he was admitted to the bar in 1895, and has been here ever since. He did his first few years of starving with pluck and dignity, gradually worked up a law business, and now, as senior member of the firm of Lucey & Larkin, has one of the finest law practices in the county.

Early in his struggling days he was lucky enough to find two members of the dominant party fighting over the city attorneyship. Lucey, with alert eye, sized up the situation, hopped nimbly into the ring, and took it away from them. The people liked him so well, they re-elected him. Then they got the Lucey habit, and in 1903 they elected him mayor. In 1905 they elected him again, and yet again in 1909.

The important features of the Lucey administration were those connected with public improvements. Great impetus was given to street paving, and the splendid system of brick roadways, which marks Streator above other cities, received its greatest stimulus during his terms of office. The fire department was reorganized and put on a salaried basis, the city hall was rebuilt, and a new bridge erected across the Vermillion river—the latter not only a much-needed improvement, but one that settled forever an old controversy that had rent the town for many years.

By this time Mr. Lucey was one of the towering figures on the local horizon. When his party wanted some one to run for the state senate in opposition to Corbus P. Gardner, long recognized head of the republican organization in that body, they chose P. J. Lucey of Streator. Though Mr. Gardner had the power of federal patronage behind him, it is claimed by Mr. Lucey's friends that he fairly won the election. The face of the returns gave the election to Gardner. A contest was instituted and carried to the senate, which, being the judge of its own members, voted to seat its leader, C. P. Gardner. The senatorial contest was lost, but the admirable manner in which Mr. Lucey comported himself no doubt went far to commend him to his party in Illinois, and to earn for him the proud eminence he now enjoys.

Always a worker for the city's development, Mr. Lucey has ever been identified with every movement for its upbuilding. He has been a

member of the Executive Committee of the Commercial Club since its organization, and has been its president for the past three years, an office he still holds.

Like most American boys, his biographical data can be given in a paragraph. Born of plain working people in Ottawa, Ill., in 1873, in a house which is still occupied by his sister. Went through the common schools and was graduated from the Ottawa high school in 1890. Worked in a dry goods store in La Salle for a year, then went to Chicago and studied law with Duncan & Gilbert. Came to Streator in 1895; city attorney 1897 and 1901; mayor 1903, 1905, 1909; prospective attorney-general of Illinois 1912. He is now 39, with 30 good working years ahead of him. With his start, where ought he not land?

## HON. E. M. DAVIS.

Special interest attaches to the administration of E. M. Davis from the fact that he is the only candidate of the distinctly labor element of the city who has held the office of mayor. He was the regular nominee of the republican party, it is true, but there is little doubt that Mr. Davis owed his nomination to his prominence in the labor wing of the party. He was president of the Trades and Labor Council of the city for five terms, and was so thoroughly identified with labor that at a time when it was thought that its interests required independent political action, no one but Mr. Davis was thought of as its leader. In view of these facts it is interesting to note the character of administration given by a recognized labor advocate and chieftain.

The first surprise is that it was distinctly a business administration.

How is this shown?

First, by its economy.

Second, by its efficient financial management.

When Mr. Davis entered the mayor's office he found a cash balance on hand of about \$4,000. When he went out at the end of two years he left a balance of about \$16,000. It is to be noted that there was no skimping of the regular appropriations. Streets, sidewalks, sewers, etc., received the same as under any previous administration, and in addition a handsome brick band stand and public comfort



station was erected in the park. What was the secret of financial success? Mr. Davis attributes it to a rigid enforcement of collections of all sources of revenue, and the stoppage of every discoverable leak. He gave to the affairs of the city more of his energy and attention than he did to his own contracting business, and applied to it the economies of a thorough-going industrial management. The political leeches and hangers on complained of the policy of money saving as something unheard of in city affairs, but "Manley," as he is familiarly called, went on quietly and left \$16,000 in the treasury.

He now confesses to the writer for the first time the secret motive of his parsimony. He says it was his private ambition to heal the feud between the partisans of Main and Bridge streets by building a bridge at both points. The latter he would build out of current revenues, the former he would bond the city for, and he had positive expert figures that a good bridge could have been erected for \$24,000. And so he was bent on saving the city's money to carry out his idea. Looking back on it to-day, he is confident that it could have been successfully carried out.

During his term public gambling was rigidly suppressed, and the saloons were brought into a degree of orderliness far above the common. The Sunday closing practice at present in vogue was first inaugurated during this period, and the mayor had a signed agreement, voluntarily executed by the saloonkeepers, pledging themselves to each other and to the city to co-operate in certain mutually agreeable restrictions and restraints.

E. M. Davis was born in Birmingham, England in 1863, and was brought up to the trade of gas tube worker. He came to America in 1882, and worked at his trade for a year in

Chicago, and then came to Streator. Here he cut loose from his old trade, and taking his fortune in his hands, started in to learn a new one. He learned the trade of general mason, and in 1890 went into partnership with D. L. Thomas. With the leaving of his partner the burden of the business fell on him personally, and he has carried it ever since. He is now the principal mason contractor in the city, and has erected many of the principal buildings, such as the Public Service gas plant, the Crawford power house, has superintended the Ralph Plumb school, and now is doing the mason

work on the new Slavish school building, which is to cost about \$50,000.

In addition to being for five terms president of the Trades Council, he has been delegate to two national conventions of the A. F. of L., and in nothing is his character so well represented as in the fact that as an employe of labor, he has so well retained the confidence of union labor as to be chosen its representative. He served several years as alderman, three terms as member of the Board of Education, is member of the Police and Fire Commission, and member of the Senatorial Committee. He has been director of the German Building & Loan As-

sociation for seventeen years and in every position held has measured up to the expectations of his associates.



Hon. E. M. Davis.

## HON. W. W. BEAN.

W. W. Bean has the distinction of being the only republican mayor of Streator elected for the third term. He is the present incumbent, and was elected as the candidate of the republican party by the largest majority ever

giving for the office since the time of Col. Plumb.

His first term was during the World's Fair year, 1893. The chief events of that administration were foundational. Street paving, which had been begun the previous year under Mayor Boys, was developed and carried out to the outskirts. The plank sidewalks which had disfigured Main street, were discarded; a uniform grade was established, and cement walks laid in the business centre. The policy encountered opposition, but experience has demonstrated its economy and utility.

It was in 1897 that Mayor Bean stood like a rock against the first concerted effort to establish organized graft in Streator, and ignominiously defeated it. The Lafayette Bridge Company sought to obtain a contract for building a bridge across the river at the foot of Main street. The project was hotly contested, the mayor and several members of the council being opposed. The bridge company bribed a number of aldermen and secured a two-thirds majority of the council. The contract was awarded against the mayor's protest, and the company built the bridge. When the bridge bonds were presented to the mayor for his approval he refused to affix his signature and the bonds could not be sold. They threatened to mandamus him, but he was inflexible. The matter was carried into the Circuit Court, and the jury disagreed. It was tried again in the United States District Court, and it was decided in favor of the city. Some of the purchased aldermen turned states evidence and Becker, agent of the bridge company, confessed to bribery. The court held the company could not recover and gave them six months to remove the bridge, and failing that it should revert to the city. The bridge was removed, but the Lafayette Bridge Company could not

survive the shock, and ultimately went into bankruptcy.

At the conclusion of the litigation, in recognition of the mayor's sturdy defense of the city, a large number of citizens presented him with a costly gold watch, on which was inscribed the following:

"Presented to W. W. Bean, Nov. 6, 1901, in appreciation of his courage and honesty displayed while mayor of the city."

Mr. Bean usually offends some interest while in office, so that his terms of office are never consecutive. But the years usually vindicate him, and he is recalled to office after an interval of rest. His present term began in 1911, and he has another year to serve. The important questions of this year are the renewal of the contract for street lighting and the readjustment of the water rates. The former has been settled to the satisfaction of the mayor, and the latter is the subject of fierce contention, which may have to be settled in the courts. Mr. Bean takes pride in the financial showing of his administrations. It has been his policy to keep the expenses below the revenue, and he has always been able to turn over to his successor a balance on the right side of the ledger.



Hon. W. W. Bean.

W. W. Bean was born in Lisbon, New York in 1845. He served through the war, was mustered out at its close, returned home and went to school. He worked as a printer on several papers and came to Streator in 1870. After working at his trade for three or four years, he bought the Streator Monitor, and has been its editor and proprietor ever since. A consistent republican in politics, he was elected town clerk for fourteen years, was supervisor for seven years, and a member of the County Board of Review for two terms, and has also been honored by state positions in the G. A. R.

# MARTS OF MERCHANDISE

STORES, BANKS AND WIDE AWAKE BUSINESS OF THE CITY  
OF STREATOR.

Imagine Streator without Main Street.

How would you like to live in a town without a business section?

Ask the crowd that throngs the street on Saturday night. It is a rude, jostling, merry crowd. How it enjoys the glare of the electric light, the glittering shop windows, the tempting displays spread alluringly under the light. The girl meets her beau on Main street, and together they parade up and down the thoroughfare, she coyly glancing at the makings of a tresson, he more boldly looking at the price marks on the house-furnishing goods. The housewife, intent on bargains, passes in and out of the stores, keenly alert on making the "old man's" pay go as far as possible; and the "old man" himself strolls leisurely about, meeting his chums, shaking hands with old friends, and making the street his club, his fair, his place of relaxation. And there is the harem-searum youth who is out for a time Saturday night; how he wriggles and twists through the throng from Bloomington to Sterling street, up one side and down the other, having the time of his life; now into Jodie's, then into the Dawn or Dreamland, then slipping in for an ice cream soda or something stronger. Ah! Main street is a dream of delight for young America of both sexes on Saturday night.

A stranger might imagine himself in Cosmopolis. Stand on the corner and see them pass: Greeks, Syrians, Armenians, Italians, all the dark skins of Southern Europe. Then the Slavs, Bohemians, Lithuanians, Poles, the rugged peoples of Eastern Europe; and the fair-skinned Norse and Dane, the German, French, Belge; the ruddy Saxon, the fiery Celt, Irish, Welsh, Scotch—all passing the corner on Sat-

urday night. And sprinkled among them the black and yellow faces of the negro, with an occasional Mexican, Jap or Chinaman.

Main street on Saturday night! It is a World's Fair of races and faces.

But we should bear in mind that there would be no Main street if there were no merchants. Not only would we lose the biggest show of the town, but we would lose the festal events of the year, the Fourth of July, the Chautauqua, the Races, the Fair, the Base Ball Park—for which Main street furnishes a large share of the support. And that is not all, for without Main street the town would lose the main support of the movements that push the town forward and hold it up, the Improvement Associations, Commercial Clubs, its charities, subscriptions and the like.

If the reign of the mail order houses were complete, there would be no Main street, and all Streator would be like Riverside.

The merchants of Streator bring goods from the four quarters of the earth, and deliver them at the doors of the consumer. The commodities may be inspected and returned if not satisfactory. They ransack the world for goods that will exactly fit the local demand; if they miss their guess they lose their money. They do this for an average of less than five cents on the dollar. Many have failed, and the rich ones may be counted on the fingers of one hand.

But their greatest service is that they maintain the greatest social centre the town possesses, and are the main support of the forces and movements that make for the upbuilding of the town. Is not the service of Main street worth preserving?

## D. HEENAN MERCANTILE COMPANY

Streator, as a city of less than twenty thousand people, stands separate from all others in

its great department store, owned and constructed by the D. Heenan Mercantile Company.

Here are twenty-two departments in four stories, sheltered under one roof, the foundation being two hundred and fifty by one hundred and forty feet, and the total floor space aggregating more than one hundred and twenty thousand feet. A neighboring city of something like double the population of Streator, proclaims it has a department store larger than any other city in the state of Illinois, outside of Chicago, and gives the floor space in that store as sixty-five thousand square feet, which is a

more in the mind of the builder than the Streater of today when the enterprise was undertaken.

It was realized then that a city situated in the heart of a wonderfully rich agricultural district, with railroad facilities second to no municipality of its size in the whole country, with its central location, with its multiplying manufacturing advantages in the manufacture of glass, it was realized then, as it is now, that such a city must eventually become one of the



Heenan Department Store.

trifle over half the size of the Streater establishment. Some idea of the magnitude of this institution may be had when one realizes that it would take more than forty stores twenty-five feet wide by one hundred feet deep to equal it in capacity.

This establishment stands as a monument to the enterprise, genius and courage of D. Heenan, who planned it, as well as to his wonderful faith in the future of his city, for there is no doubt that the Streater of tomorrow was

great commercial centers of the country.

The D. Heenan department store draws trade to Streater from a circle ninety miles in diameter, and its annual catalogues, because of the bargains and opportunities therein offered, find wholesome welcome in the homes of this wide expanse of territory and with each succeeding year as its literature reaches farther abroad, its trade increases, and it is safe to say that one-half of the story is not yet told.

What is sold? Of what does this immense

stock, representing an investment in the neighborhood of three hundred thousand dollars, consist, and what do the clerical force, salesmen and salesladies of well nigh one hundred and fifty find to do? To particularize would take pages in this book, just for the names of things—the store is a city unto itself. Just imagine twenty-two complete establishments all engaged in and carrying different lines, and you will have some idea of the things held for sale under this one roof.

from the president of the corporation in his glass enclosure in the executive department, down to the messenger boys. The motto in this great store is "Please the Customer," and no effort is spared to accomplish this end. Everyone who enters the store is given close personal attention; her wants are anticipated; her wishes are intelligently interpreted; countless, almost unobservable little arts of salesmanship are practiced for his or her benefit. Finally, there is truthful representation, and this man-



Interior of Heenan Department Store, Street Floor.

The show windows of the D. Heenan Mercantile Co., being of good height and extending nearly four hundred feet on two streets, present a display of goods in quality, character, variety, arrangement and good taste quite equal to anything to be found in the largest cities of America.

The service in the D. Heenan store is of the kind that is known as par excellence. Every thing is done in a good way. There is kindness, courtesy and discernment, promptness, neatness and orderliness everywhere and by all,

datory requirement on the part of an efficient management is in no small degree responsible for the vast space and great need the D. Heenan department store fills in Central Illinois.

Putting it in a quick, comprehending way, in a way that will stick in the individual consciousness, let it be said that the D. Heenan Store is the biggest and best thing of its kind in the world in a city the size of Streator, and that the writer knows of no city of even three or four times the size of Streator with so large, varied and modernized a retail establishment.

## STREATOR'S INTERURBAN RAILWAY COMPANY

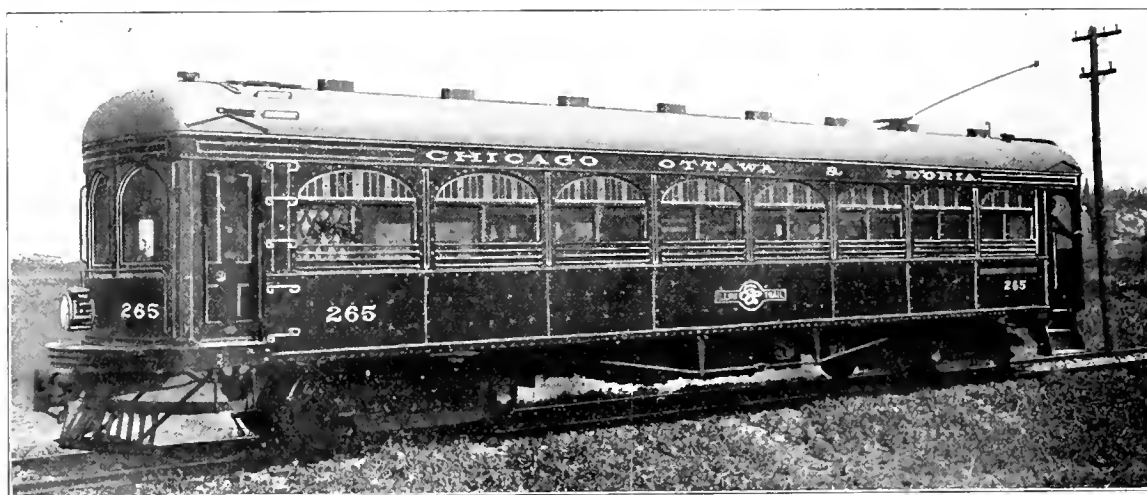
A valuable asset to the industrial growth of Streator is the Chicago, Ottawa & Peoria Railway, which is part of the great system of interurbans built and controlled by Congressman Wm. B. McKinley. It now connects Streator with the beautiful Illinois Valley, with its rich agricultural and mining developments, and which will ultimately be joined to the Illinois Traction System. This railroad is a valuable asset to the transportation facilities of Streator and vicinity. The system of interurbans of which it is a part is the greatest system of this kind now in operation. The line from Streator runs straight to Ottawa, where it connects for

opportunities of suburban residents.

The freight service given by the C. O. & P. is rapid and prompt. It is express service at freight rates. Goods shipped to any part of the line one day being delivered the next morning.

Like all the McKinley properties the C. O. & P. is modern in every respect. Its roadbed compares favorably with that of any steam road. Automatic electric block signals guard train movements, and the heavy modern equipment has all been designed with a view to speed, safety and comfort.

This road is a valuable asset to Streator and



The new Steel Model Interurban Passenger Car.

Joliet, Seneca, Morris, Marseilles, Peru, La Salle, Spring Valley, Ladd, Bureau and Princeton, forming a system of 110 miles, which ultimately will be connected with Chicago. This road furnishes advantages for travel far superior to the steam lines. It gives a vast and frequent convenient service for business purposes. For pleasure trips the road is unexcelled. It has been given the name of "Illini Trail" and runs the length of the historic valley of the Illinois. The scenic grandeur compares favorably with any place in the country. By means of the interurban, rural districts are brought directly in touch with the merchants of the cities, giving them the advantages and

its further development will be watched with great interest by the community, because with its advantages of fast, clean passenger service and quick, efficient freight deliveries it opens a field of transportation not approached by any steam road entering the city. The following are the officers of the railway:

W. B. McKinley, president, Champaign, Ill.; H. E. Chubbuck, V. P. Executive, Peoria, Ill.; F. E. Fisher, General Superintendent, Joliet, Ill.; A. E. Blackburn, Traffic Manager, Joliet, Ill.; B. W. Arnold, Supt. of Transportation, Ottawa, Ill.; W. F. Carr, Engineer, Maint. of Way, Ottawa, Ill.; J. O. Tucker, Operating Engineer, Ottawa, Ill.; R. C. Taylor, Supt. of Motive Power, Ottawa, Ill.

## THE STREATOR DECORATING COMPANY

Again Streator may claim the largest business house in the state outside of Chicago—at least none surpass, and only few rival it. The Streator Decorating Company is a wholesale and retail house dealing in wallpaper and decorators' supplies. Three large store rooms are devoted to its business, and its trade extends all over Illinois, and overflows into Indiana, Iowa and Missouri. Within a radius of fifty miles from Streator it is the dominant factor in decorative work. Most of the big work the churches, public buildings and fine residences, pass through the hands of the artists and artisans of the Streator Decorating Company. The nearer cities, such as Ottawa, Kankakee and Chillicothe, know its name as well as Streator people; while in Springfield, Bloomington, Decatur, Davenport and way out to Hannibal, Mo., its name and fame is familiar. Even where it does not contract direct, it furnishes supplies to local dealers, and with them it furnishes Streator ideas and Streator artists to do the work. So it carries the influence of the city to a considerable distance, and, incidentally, gives employment to Streator labor equal to a small factory. At the present time 32 people are employed, and the pay roll is \$2,000 per month.

It specializes in fine interior decorative work of all sorts, whether in oil or distemper, fresco or frieze work. It maintains an expert service in wallpapers, in which the most wonderful triumphs of modern decorative art have been wrought in the past ten years. Being asked what changes in taste he had observed in his 30 years experience in Streator, President Lorenz replied: "The changes have been simply revolutionary. In the old days everybody wanted big, flashy designs, and loud, showy colors. Now nobody will have them. They want rich, fine, quiet tones, more like hand work. The better the taste the more subdued the pattern. And they want it more substantial. Scarcely any good building is put up now without canvassing. Well-to-do people nowadays are willing to spend money for house decoration. Whereas formerly they used to think \$50 a good price to spend on a room, now they think nothing of spending \$150 or \$200. Even the poorest houses which used to pay \$3.00 a room now pay \$6.00, while those of the middle class think little of paying \$10.00 or

\$20.00. Some of this, of course, is due to increased cost of labor and materials, but it is much more unmistakably due to an improvement in taste. This has been helped on by the remarkable improvements in the designs of wallpapers. By the discovery of the aérochrome process—a sort of air brush—it has become possible to produce wallpaper with almost the effects of freedom and originality produced by good hand work. No one need suffer from the stiff, mechanical patterns of the old paper; the beautifully blended, soft, rich cloud-like effects that formerly only an artist could paint, are now, thanks to the new process, available for people of moderate means."

So we find the gospel of William Morris permeating the homes of America, and the day has come when machine art has ceased to be a by word and reproach.

In this work the leader in Streator is the Streator Decorating Company. Through its hands pass periodically most of the homes of the city, and what it leaves on their walls represents in large measure its contribution to the aesthetic education of the people. Louis Lorenz, the founder and present head of the company, received his training in the most thorough going of German schools. Born in Plauen, Saxony, in 1860, he went to the common schools until thirteen, and then was apprenticed to the decorator's trade. After a day of hard work at the trade he used to have to put two to three hours each evening at drawing, designing and mastering the technique of the craft. Before the expiration of his five years apprenticeship he had mastered his trade so well that his boss gave him six months off time with full wages.

Mr. Lorenz came to America in 1880; he worked as decorator for leading Chicago firms for two years, by whom he was sent to various cities in charge of work. Coming thus to Streator in 1882, he liked the place and settled down. As these words are being written it is just thirty years to the day since Mr. Lorenz landed in Streator, and he is justified in looking back with pride on the upbuilding of a business that ranks among the first of its kind in the state, outside of Chicago. Associated with him in the business are his two sons, Frank Lorenz, treasurer; Oscar Lorenz, secretary; Carl Hagenson, vice-president.



## THE DAILY INDEPENDENT-TIMES

The Independent-Times began its career in 1885 as the Streator Sunday Independent. It was edited by Dr. David Le Roy, father of the present editor, and a well known writer, speaker and public character of those days. Fred Le Roy, who now edits the paper, was type setter and office force. It was continued as a weekly

finally consolidated under the name of the Streator Independent-Times. Meeks Bros. remained with the reorganized paper for a time, but ultimately withdrew, leaving the Le Roy interests in control.

In 1897 the interest of Dr. David Le Roy was purchased by B. S. Barlow. Fred Le Roy

**Daily Independent-Times.**

1885, VOL. 10, NO. 1000  
PUBLISHED WEEKLY, MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1913  
PRICE, FIVE CENTS

**LEAD IN COAL TROUBLE**  
George F. Best for Operators  
John H. White, Miners' President




**SECRETARY AXOX'S JUNKIE**  
He is now being celebrated, both  
times at Wagon, Wagon

**PRIZE AMERICAN MINISTER**  
The American Minister  
has been elected to the  
position of American Minister  
in the city of St. Louis.

**FLAT REJECTION  
TO MEET MINERS**

Coal Operators Confer and De-  
cide upon Course.

**STRIKE IS MORE THAN LIKELY**

Independents and B. C. Operators  
Both Represented at Conference  
in New York-Mineral Congress

New York, March 6.—The answer  
last night's editorial comment  
will mean to the miners of the  
conference in New York in the  
month of March 15, will be a flat  
rejection.

The conference was held at the  
Hotel Hamilton in New York City.  
The miners' representatives were  
led by John H. White, president  
of the National Miners' Union.

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of the National Miners' Union.



**PRISON FOR MURDERERS REIGN OF TERROR  
AROUND CANTON**

Chicago Young Men Escape  
Extreme Penalty.

Chicago, March 10.—The  
young men who were  
arrested in the city of  
Chicago, have been  
sent to the city of  
Chicago, where they  
will be held in  
custody.

**REPUBLICANS TO ASSIST YUAN**

The Republicans will  
assist Yuan in his  
efforts to restore  
order in the city of  
Chicago.

**STRIKE CONDITIONS BAD**

Advance in Price of Bread  
Probable in England.

The conditions in the  
city of Chicago are  
very bad, and it is  
probable that the  
strike will continue  
for some time.

**CHALLENGE FROM  
ROOSEVELT SIDE**

Senator Dixon Throws "Defi"  
to Representative McKinley.

**FIND VOTERS' PREFERENCE**

Director of Census Bureau Has  
Presidential Returns, So May  
in Every State-Tell Man  
age Report

Washington, March 8.—The  
director of the census bureau  
has received the returns from  
the states, and he is now  
working on the results.

The director of the census  
bureau has received the  
returns from the states, and  
he is now working on the  
results.

**EVERY MINUTE COUNTS  
WHEN YOU ARE IN PAIN**

When you are in pain,  
every minute counts.  
You need a remedy that  
will relieve you quickly.

**SENATOR J. M. DIXON**

President's Side Opposes  
to the "Challenge"

**MRS. M. L. SNIFT DEAD**

She was 80 years old.  
She was a native of  
Chicago, and she had  
lived in the city for  
many years.

First Page of Independent-Times.

for two years, and then changed to a morning daily. While the Independent was pursuing a vigorous independent democratic policy, there was another democratic daily in the town, the Times, edited by Meeks Bros. Four daily newspapers were more than Streator could profitably support, and the two democratic papers were

continued as editor, and Virginia Barlow Le Roy became associate editor. From that time until the present these interests have continued in control, and the concern has enjoyed a period of unbroken prosperity. The circulation of the paper has increased ten-fold, the advertising patronage has more than quadrupled, new



presses, linotype machines, etc., have been added until the plant now has a first class printing equipment. The firm conducts a large stationery store, carrying all sorts of stationers' supplies, books, magazines, novelties, etc.

The most important extension of its business, however, is in the job department, which has developed the specialty of printing election supplies and legal blanks, which it supplies largely to law firms and election officers in the state of Illinois. Its salesmen cover every town and city of consequence in the state, and so large has the volume of business become that the Independent Times is now the heaviest patron of the express offices in the city.

The growth of the business has called for increased office and store room until recently it was found necessary to purchase the brick building at 103 E. Main street. It will be rebuilt and carried back to the alley, giving a space of 140x25 feet, with two stories and basement, all of which will be occupied with the business of the Independent Times.

The editorial policy of the paper is progressive and democratic. Mr. Le Roy is a forceful, fearless and trenchant writer, whose rugged sentences never fail to make his meaning clear to the reader. His heaviest blows are struck at privilege, and his forceful utterances have had the recognition of reproduction in the Chicago dailies and dailies throughout the state.

In 1910 he was chosen state central committeeman by his party, and was re-elected in 1912 after a severe contest under the new direct primary law—a mark of public esteem rather unusual for an unsparing, hard hitting newspaper man who has never played politics for place or favor. (As his company is one of the publishers of this volume, it is fair to state that this personal comment is written without Mr. Le Roy's knowledge or consent.)

His wife, Mrs. Virginia Le Roy, is co editor with him on the paper, and her versatile pen touches many subjects not usually covered in a local daily. Society, literature, education, art, social ethics, economics, the woman movement, all are illuminated by her brilliant pen. She is

not a smatterer on these subjects, but writes as one who has had many years hard study under the direction of the best masters of philosophy, psychology, economics and ethics that the University of Chicago possesses. She is a public lecturer of many years experience, of unusual gift as a public speaker, and has appeared at many of the leading chautauquas and lyceums. She is also a contributor to the leading magazines. In addition to her editorial work she regularly conducts adult classes in literature and poetry in this and neighboring towns. A daily column from her pen is one of the features of the paper.

The city department of the paper is looked after by Miss Ethel Head and Mr. Michael Reed, two writers whose talents supplement each other admirably. Mr. Reed is one of the oldest, most efficient and most respected working newspaper men in Streator, and Miss Head adds the vivacity of a bright pen, an alert news instinct, an intelligent mind, and a pleasing personality to the news staff.

Not so openly before the public, but a pillar of strength to the paper is Mr. George Stevens, circulating manager, through whose able management the circulation has been raised to and kept at the high point at which it now stands.

The business head and publisher is Mr. B. S. Barlow, who is also the father of the associate editor, Mrs. Fred Le Roy. Mr. Barlow has had a long life of substantial business experience, and though he came into the newspaper field late in life, yet he brought to it a mature judgment, a solid financial support, and a mind trained in sound business methods that has been invaluable to the enterprise. Though wisely conservative, yet he has always been a force for expansion and progress in the growth of the paper. His mercantile experience dates back to ante bellum days, when with the Ingersolls, Puterbaughs and others he was one of the young business men of Peoria. Col. Ingersoll officiated as best man at Mr. Barlow's wedding. Though now past 75 years of age, he is still full of vim and vigor, and takes an active interest in all the details of the business.

## THE DAILY FREE PRESS

The Free Press was founded in August, 1873, by Irving Carrier. After the first edition the paper was published by Carrier and W. W.

Bean. In 1874 they were succeeded by Rev. James H. Clark, who in a few months received Walter Hoge as partner. After six months

Reed sold his interests to Mr. Hoge, who continued the paper alone until in February of 1877 John W. Fornof, who first began his connection with the paper in February, 1874, in the capacity of printer, purchased a half interest. Hoge and Fornof continued until the next year

forming the partnership of Van Skiver and Fornof, which existed until 1905 when the Free Press Company was organized. In 1910 Mr. Fornof acquired all the interests of Mr. Van Skiver, who retired from the paper. The Free Press has always been republican



First Page of Free Press.

when Fornof purchased the interests of Mr. Hoge. In 1879 Mr. Hoge again purchased a partnership, and the firm remained Fornof and Hoge until 1884. In July of that year Mr. Fornof sold his share to A. R. Van Skiver, and the next month purchased the share of Hoge, thus

except during the ownership of Mr. Hoge, when it was democratic. The issuance of the daily paper was commenced in 1880.

The officers of the company are: John W. Fornof, president; John R. Fornof, vice-president; John L. Perry, secretary and treasurer.

## THE STREATOR MONITOR

Was founded in October, 1869, by Rutan Bros. They sold in a few months to F. W. Dalton. Under this management it was issued

for a few months as a semi-weekly. This proving unprofitable, it was restored to its weekly character. March 13, 1874, Mr. Dalton sold to

Samuel Plumb, who in turn sold it to W. W. Bean, who has been sole proprietor and editor since. May 1, 1882 Mr. Bean commenced the

a six column folio. The Monitor is a staunch republican paper. The Weekly is \$1.00 a year in advance. The daily is \$3.60 a year delivered



First Page of Monitor.

daily issue, the weekly being continued. The latter was under its first two managements an eight column folio. Mr. Bean made it a six-column quarto, its present size. The daily is

by carrier. It is the oldest newspaper in Streator and is published by the oldest newspaper man, and has accordingly deserved its successful position of today.

## A. H. ANDERSON' PRINTING COMPANY

That is the name of the Company. It is a corporation organized under the laws of the state, but when all is said, Mr. A. H. Anderson, the president, manager and vitalizing force of the concern, is what it represents. Every business is the shadow of some man, Emerson says, and the statement finds quick and forceful application here.

The Anderson Printing Company began business most modestly, but experience, cover-

ing the broadest fields, has convinced all that the institutions with humble beginnings, when properly managed, are the ones that have gone on to that permanent success with which strong men like to see their names linked.

The business of this concern has never received a check. That was because the man at its head took but one chance, (that was when he started) was master of the detail and knew how to handle men, but mainly, because, to

start with, he was a practical, all-around printer, who brought into the business a knowledge that enabled him to shun the rough, shallow places where so many craft run adrift.

"Good work pays"—that is the motto of the Anderson Printing House. It is practically water-marked into every piece of work sent out

Chicago, and because of the kind of work he does, that territory is constantly expanding.

Mr. Anderson was born in Capps, Pennsylvania, in 1864, and with his parents came to Illinois when a lad, located at Braidwood, where he attended school until he was thirteen, when he came to Streator and went to work in the



and from the president to the "devil" it lends character to all workers and workmanship.

"One can't sell silk at the price of cotton and he can't do good printing on fine paper at cheap prices and continue doing it," Mr. Anderson remarked, and added, "We please our people because we take it for granted they know what good work is and they want it."

The Anderson Printing House is spacious, high posted, well ventilated, admirably lighted and located in the heart of Streator's business district on ground floors. The equipment is complete, including as it does, ruling machines, well selected book bindery requirements, seven job and cylinder presses, a judiciously selected line of the most modern type faces and everything else that is necessary in a well regulated printing establishment calculated to turn out high grade work and lots of it.

"Andy" Anderson has made a success of job printing. As a matter of fact he has grown faster than the city and today draws trade to his shop from a scope of territory that includes

coal mines. At twenty he left mining and started in to learn the printer's trade. After serving a limited apprenticeship he became a jour-



A. H. Anderson.

neyman and traveled over the state, returning to Streator in 1891, when he launched out as an independent business man.

In 1888 he married Miss Anna Billingsly and at the present time Mrs. Anderson is a stockholder in the company, is one of its directors and is acting secretary.

Mr. Anderson's pastime is golf, and he has

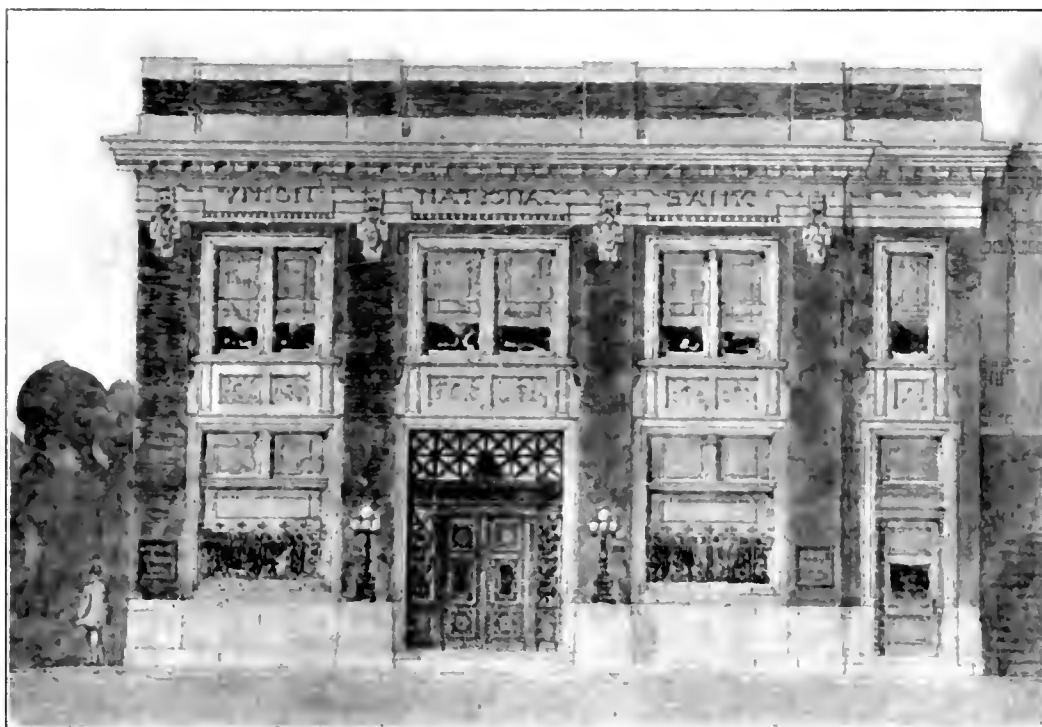
no hesitancy in saying that, as he was denied the pleasures of boyhood when a boy, he has his coming, and is enjoying a little of it now. He insists that the college of "Hard knocks" from which he graduated, must have some compensation, and as he is, by descent, a Scotch man, the game is his by double claim.

## THE UNION NATIONAL BANK

The Union National Bank of Streator, Illinois, was chartered for business in August, 1874, with a capital stock of \$50,000. Five years prior to that date Samuel Plumb established the Bank of Streator as a private institution under the laws of the state and he continued at the head of the concern on through the period of reorganization until 1882, when he died.

follows:

Samuel Plumb, W. H. Pilcher, M. Craft, E. Evans, A. B. Moon, W. S. Cherry, John Barton, L. M. Sawyer, A. E. Tyler, J. Kirkpatrick, O. B. Wheeler, J. W. Barnhart, R. Scharfenberg, J. Lomasney, J. H. Curvea, N. Wolff, T. J. Coffey, G. Fordyce, L. Swift, Alex. Fuller, J. W. Moon, F. Richards, Isaac Ames, Jay Baker,



Many who are active in Streator now and who are helping shape its destiny, will be interested in looking over the list of men who constituted the stockholders of the Union National Bank when it was founded thirty-eight years ago and will be surprised to note how few of those who were so alert in social and business activities then, are with us now. The list

Richard Evans, W. S. Gates, Mrs. E. E. High, F. Plumb, Isaac Mason, J. S. Smith, Joel T. Buckley, Elijah Defenbaugh, F. Benckendorf, Geo. L. Richards, C. E. Stephens, F. M. Ryon, Geo. Miller, Ralph Plumb and C. Wagoner.

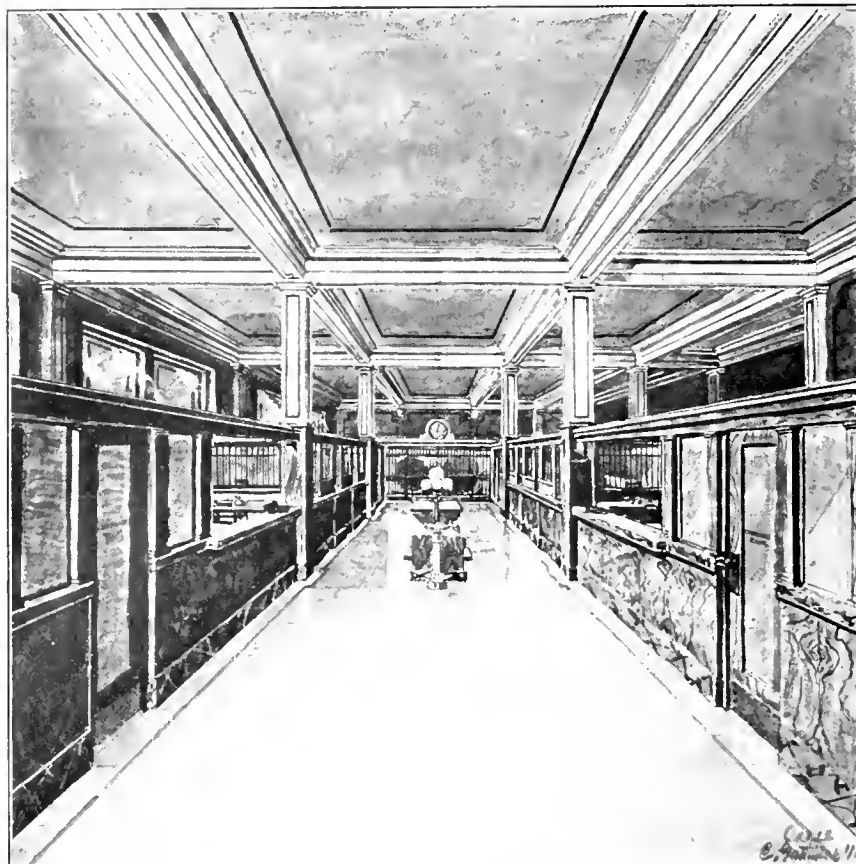
The officers of the bank at that time were Samuel Plumb, president; Isaac Ames, vice-president; and G. L. Richards, cashier.

On November 8, 1890, the capital stock of the bank was increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and the following condensed report to the comptroller of currency, shows the condition of the institution at the close of business February 20, 1912.

Flick, ass't. cashier.

The directors are: L. H. Plumb, S. W. Plumb, C. C. Barr, James Sexton, C. H. Williams, M. W. Jack, W. H. Boys, G. W. Graham and E. H. Bailey.

The bank of today that has the art of com-



Interior of Union National Bank.

#### RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts.....	\$ 869,248.16
U. S. and other bonds.....	291,640.00
Cash and Due from Banks.....	429,199.34
Due From U. S. Treasurer.....	5,000.00
Banking House .....	45,062.39

\$1,640,149.89

#### LIABILITIES

Capital .....	\$ 100,000.00
Surplus and Profits.....	313,255.81
Circulation .....	100,000.00
Deposits .....	1,126,894.08

\$1,640,149.89

The officers of the bank at the present time are L. H. Plumb, president; S. W. Plumb, vice-president; E. H. Bailey, cashier, and W. C.

binig service with safety, accommodation with reliability, is the bank, the real future of which is still ahead; the bank management that knows men values as well as property values, however great its present may be, is but at the beginning of its career. Such are the Union National Bank and the people at its head; it and they have been identified directly or indirectly with the city of Streator from its beginning and logically, in interest, in sympathy, in fore knowledge and in purpose this bank is one with the city in all things that make for the development of both.

The highest compliment that can be paid those who are gone is the keeping alive and in constant force the principles and policies and amenities of life, for which they stood.

That is a big part of the framework upon

which the Union National so firmly stands—the rational, far-seeing plans and policies of the bank, thirty years and more ago, when Samuel Plumb was the genius who guided its destinies, are the plans and policies that have shaped its developing course through the intervening years and in a large measure have won for it the proud and important position it occupies in the city today, as they are the plans and policies that govern it now. There is no one thing the present management emphasizes so much as “The policy of the Union National is the same now as it was in the beginning, and it will so continue, subject, of course, to the changes in law and evolution in financial affairs that are

inevitable.”

In a few weeks the bank will abandon its temporary quarters and take permanent residency in the beautiful and substantial structure it has just erected on the corner of Main and Park streets.

To attempt a description of its new home would take more space than is at command—suffice to say that in beauty of exterior and interior, permanency of construction, convenience in arrangement, elaborateness in appointment and in safety to depositors there is nothing of the kind in Illinois outside of Chicago, that surpasses it, and outside of a few of the larger cities nothing in the state that equals it.

## THE STREATOR NATIONAL BANK

This bank is less an institution than a personality—or a group of personalities. Thirty years of service has not chilled the warm, personal touch imparted to it by its founder; nor has the inevitable frigidity of the cash nexus been able to supplant the friendly, human connection established by him between the bank and its clients.

It was started by one who was perhaps the rarest personality that Streator has known—Colonel Ralph Plumb, founder of the city. The founder has passed on, but in no one place is his influence more cherished than in the bank which he established. That a bank should be safe, strong, conservative, is taken for granted; but that it should be friendly, helpful, self-giving in its spirit and service is not so common, and it was this quality that the founder sought to inculcate.

Too often the banker is regarded as a sort of superior person, to whom the man in need of money must come as one suing for a favor. Austerity and condescension are supposedly the proper virtues of the man who passes on the quality of a loan, and when it is granted the borrower is sometimes made to feel a sense of obligation which rankles in after years. This bank tries to negative this prevalent conception of the attitude of the banker. It makes no loans that are not warranted by sound banking practice; but, when it does, it tries to make the borrower feel that the obligation is mutual, and that he has done the bank as much of a favor as the bank has done for him.

Personality can only act through persons,

and if the spirit of the founder is to flow on, it must be through the people who follow him in the work. Like attracts like, and perhaps it was this principle that attracted to it its personnel. The cashier, Mr. H. W. Lukins, has been with the bank nearly from its beginning, and its larger development has been all within his administration.

Were Streator asked to present a name for a position requiring courtesy, integrity, ability and self-effacing kindness and service, the name of Harry W. Lukins would spring spontaneously to many lips. The assistant cashier, Mr. Louis Nater, has also been with the bank for years, and he, too, is a banker plus; for he it is who speaks with the immigrant in his native tongue, who patiently explains to him the intricacies of strange money, and helps him over the hard places. The same spirit permeates the whole service, and it is significant of its character that so many of its officers and workers are known and called by their first names, from the president down. When the president is familiarly called “Faweett,” and the cashier is called “Harry,” it is evident that the hauteur and chilliness supposed to surround a bank does not obtain here.

Naturally they are easy to do business with. The same ready smile and glad hand greets the small as well as the large depositor. Perhaps it is a poor working woman timidly coming to make her first savings deposit; perhaps a harried business man looking for a loan; perhaps a frightened foreigner sending his first draft home from a foreign land. They are all made



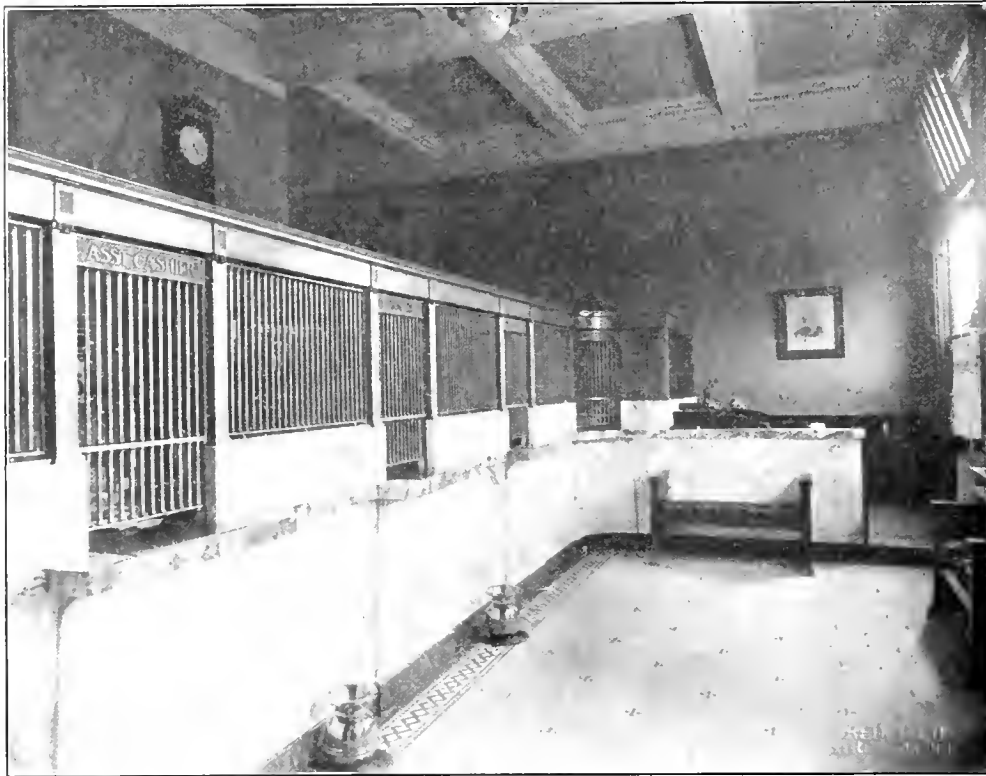
to feel at ease, and kindness and cordiality greets them all.

The people seem to like it, and their kindly feeling has caused its deposits to increase thirty fold since it began business, and it is still growing.

On Feb. 28, 1907, it accepted the first savings account on which interest was paid in Streator. Since then these accounts have

Nater assistant cashier. Additional directors are Mr. D. C. Murray, Mr. George Goulding and Mr. Ermin F. Plumb. The capital of the bank is \$100,000, and surplus and undivided profits \$75,000.

The bank was remodeled and reconstructed in 1911, and is equipped with modern, up-to-date banking conveniences for the service of its patrons. It invites the public to make use of



Interior of Streator National Bank.

Clark Studio

grown to large proportions, and it is now an important department of the bank. Savings depositors get three per cent interest, plus the habit of saving, which is worth ten per cent.

Among its officers and directors are some of Streator's most familiar names. The president, is Fawcett Plumb, and the vice-president is J. E. Williams. H. W. Lukins is cashier, Louis

its customer's room and its free telephone booth. Its safety deposit vault is a great convenience and safety. Private locked boxes may be obtained at a moderate charge. All forms of banking business are done with promptness and courtesy, and the experience of its officers is always at the service of patrons when in need of friendly and safe financial counsel.

## PEOPLE'S TRUST & SAVINGS BANK

Five years ago on the fourteenth of May, the People's Trust & Savings Bank was chartered under the laws of Illinois, with the capi-

talization of \$100,000.00, and since that time this newest of financial concerns has progressed with a steady and rugged growth until it has



won a place in the confidence and business affections of the people of which it may be justly proud.

The growth of this bank, rightly interpreted is an inspiration to brains and courage. There is a wide found belief that, in order to succeed in the banking business, one has to be born into it, and must have grown up through it, but Mr. Philip Saunders, who was most active in the organization of the People's Trust & Savings Bank, who was mainly responsible for its existence, who assumed management when it was authorized to begin business, and who has con-

friends, and he made them; he had opportunity to perfect an intimate valuation of men, and he took advantage of it; he realized that there was an urgent demand for a Savings Institution in this city, and when he had his plans matured he consulted capital as to their wisdom and practicability. Those others saw it as he did, and the result is known.

The bank has forty eight stockholders, and they are judiciously distributed over this section of Illinois, and the same plan of distribution has been followed in the selection of its directors and the placing of its loans. As a logi-



Interior of People's Trust and Savings Bank.

Clark Studio

tinued as its cashier since, has demonstrated that the theory is as dead as "the divine right of kings."

If additional proof of this point be necessary, all one has to do is to look at the names of C. A. Hepler, George Armstrong, David E. Huggans, Joseph Kopf, Frank Marx, Walter Sixt, R. J. Howells, W. A. Johnson and other men, who have not been bankers, who are now associated with Mr. Saunders in the direction and management of the bank.

Prior to May, 1906, Mr. Saunders was business manager of the Heenan Department Store. In that capacity he had opportunity to make

cal sequence the name of the People's Trust & Savings Bank has become well and favorably known and its reputation for safety, reliability and accommodation has become well established. The management of this bank would lay stress on the excellent service it is giving as a saving institution. This was the primary purpose when the bank was organized, and in conformity with its basic plan it was the first bank in Streator to announce that it would pay interest on deposits. Of course, every other function of sound banking is performed by the People's Trust & Savings Bank, but the original idea of establishing a bank where the

dimes and dollars will all be cared for and where they will command interest, has never been allowed to become secondary, and to this well established principle of sound finance and real service in banking the management feels that its popularity in no small degree is due.

While to commence with, part of the capital to finance the enterprise had to be secured outside of Streator, La Salle County and touching territory, today practically all of the stock is owned by people living and having their interests within Streator's trading territory.

In 1911 the bank qualified as a trust institution under the supervision of the State, as are the Illinois Trust & Savings Bank and the Mercantile Loan & Trust Company of Chicago, and like them, under the law, it is qualified to

accept receiverships, assignments, trusteeships, and guardianships.

It is complimentary to the bank and its management, as well as a recognition of the strong foothold it has gained, to say that it closed its fifth year of activity in Streator with deposits running over half a million dollars.

The present Board of Directors are C. A. Hepler, George Armstrong, David E. Huggans, Joseph Kopf, R. J. Howells, Frank Marx, William H. Jones, Walter Sext, W. A. Johnston, H. P. Showman and Philip Saunders.

Its officers are C. A. Hepler, president; George Armstrong and H. P. Showman, vice-presidents; Philip Saunders, cashier and trust officer; W. H. Jones, assistant cashier.

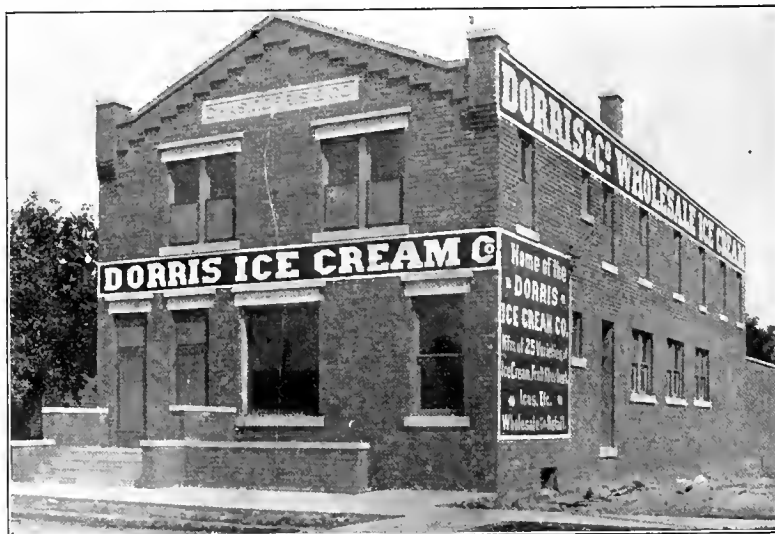
## DORRIS & COMPANY

This records a phenomenal success.

Here are three big Main street stores in one line of business, and each of them doing a big trade. All of it has been built up in seven years, and just now they have added a \$15,000 factory building for their ice cream trade, and are expanding into the wholesale business.

No, we don't learn it in Greece. In fact, there is but little of it used there. The way we get into it is because when we come here we find some of our countrymen in it, and we go to work for them, perhaps, and get started in that line."

But how do you make such a success of it?"



Clark Studio

What is the secret of it?

Have the Greeks got some peculiar racial affinity for the ice cream and confectionery trade that enables them to monopolize it?

The writer asked Manager George Dorris the question, and he replied:

"We work hard; we put in long hours; we sell honest goods. We try to be neat, clean and attractive. Above all, we put brains into our work. We are all the time looking for new ideas, new names, new concoctions to please our customers. Then we are careful; we waste

nothing; we organize our business and work to a system. And that's all the mystery there is to it."

The Dorris Company has applied the methods of "big business" to the ice cream trade. Formerly it was regarded as a sort of picayune, peanut stand business, in which some cripple or widow eked out a precarious livelihood. With big, far-seeing vision the new comers could see in it the possibilities of raising it to the plane of a substantial mercantile concern, as important and dignified as a grocery or dry goods house. They cultivated the business scientifically, and built up their trade less by taking away from their competitors than by increasing the demand for the goods. They created an ice cream habit in the town, and caused four dishes to be consumed where there was only one before. When they began business here there was no demand for ice cream in the winter. Last year they sold as much in the winter as they did in former years in the summer. This illustrates the Dorris methods and

gives a hint of the reasons for their success.

They have been in the wholesale business three years. The first year they sold 2,000 gallons, the second year 6,000 gallons, and last year 17,000 gallons. And so they have built a new factory with the most up-to-date machinery and equipment with a capacity of 1,500 gallons every 10 hours. They ship for a radius of 50 miles to such towns as Dwight, Toluca, Roanoke, Granville, Washburn, etc. Although competing with factories at Pontiac and La Salle that have been established 25 or 30 years, they are making a steady inroad on the trade, and once they get a customer they keep him. The reason is obvious. Their goods are honest. They use real cream. Whereas the government calls for 9 per cent butter fat, the Dorris cream averages 16 per cent butter fat. Dealers are willing to pay more for these goods, the demand is increasing by leaps and bounds, and the Dorris ice cream factory promises to be one of the most prosperous institutions of the town.

## THE W. C. HILL FLORAL COMPANY

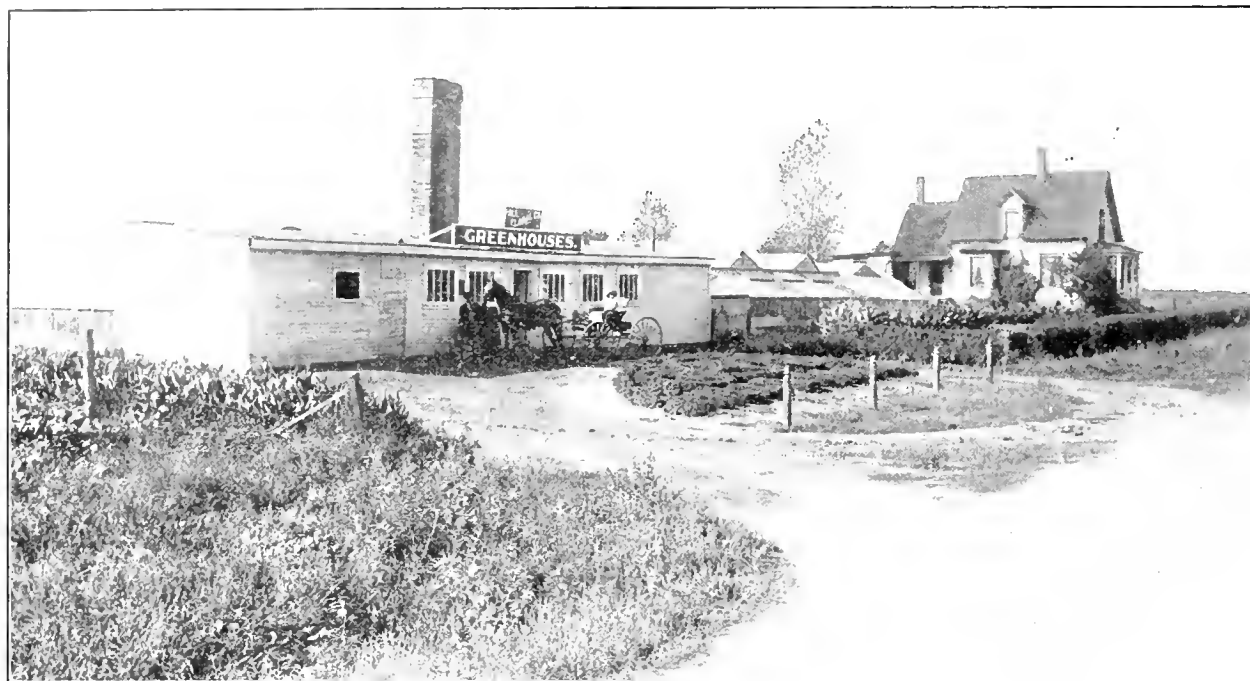
It has been said elsewhere in this volume that Streator is less noted for beauty than for utility. In the early mining days of the town this was especially true, and it required a pioneer spirit, no less than a faith in the gospel of beauty, to plant a floral establishment here. But W. C. Hill was just such a pioneer, a man of earnest soul, of sterling character and of a love of flowers that was part of his simple and sincere nature. His faith in human love of flowers has been justified by results, for human nature in Streator is not different from other places, and today a splendid floral establishment, doing a good volume of business, stands as a monument to the simple faith of W. C. Hill. Mr. Hill has passed on, but his immortality is a beautiful one, for his spirit lives on in the flowers, and is given out in the aroma and fragrance that is wafted out to sweeten the dry and dusty days, to comfort hearts that mourn, to gladden the eyes of the sick, to quicken the pulses of lovers, and to bring joy to young and old at feasts, and weddings and festivals. No finer memorial could a man leave behind him than these tender, fragile, delicate symbols of a sentiment that is at once perishing, yet more immortal than tablets of bronze; and the spirit of W. C. Hill must rejoice as he

looks on the work of his hands and pronounces it good. And the writer takes reverent pleasure in stepping out of his character as editor to offer this little wreath of appreciation as friend to him and the noble companion of his labors who survives him.

Mr. Hill began the floral business in a small way on South Park street in 1884. Sixteen years later he bought land and erected the green houses on the west side, where the plant is now conducted. The business was incorporated in 1904. About a year before Mr. Hill's death he was joined by Mr. F. R. Thornton, of Galesburg, Ill., who later bought in the company and is now its manager. Mr. Thornton is a man of the same spirit as Mr. Hill, but is in addition a technician of wide horticultural experience and knowledge. He adds to Mr. Hill's enthusiasm for flowers a scientific training and expert skill, which enables him to be an originator of rare varieties. He specializes in carnations, and one of his creations named "Melody," was given first prize at the florist's exposition of the Chicago Horticultural Society. The fame of that blossom caused a demand for it across the Atlantic, and orders came from England. A variegated carnation of his breeding named after Mrs. Fawcett Plumb,

of this city, was exhibited at Chicago and at the State Florists' Exhibition at Springfield. It attracted much favorable comment. The chief creation of this year is a purple carnation named "Purple Beauty," which is sure to win the favor of flower lovers. Not only carnations, but roses, lilies, sweet peas, chrysanthemums, all the favorite beauties beloved by

many years had charge of the store in Streator, and is pleasantly known to every lover of flowers for miles around. Her mastery of the distributing side combined with Mr. Thornton's command of the producing have made the business grow greatly. It has doubled in five years, as also has the producing space. They now have 20,000 square feet under glass, being



Hill Floral Co. Plant.

flower users are grown, and their quality under the skillful tendance of Mr. Thornton, has risen to a grade much higher than usually found in cities twice the size of Streator.

Miss Clara Sherman is an equal partner in the business with Mr. Thornton. She has for

a fourth larger than usual for plants in towns the size of Streator. This indicates the transformation that has taken place in the town, which has become a place where no function, festival or ceremony is complete without floral beauty.

## CLOVERDALE FARM AND DAIRY

There is no item of food that has received more public attention in recent years than milk. The largest producer of milk for Streator consumption is the Cloverdale Dairy, owned by Mr. A. J. Daugherty. It produces 200 gallons of milk daily. None is shipped away, but it is used in the leading hotels, restaurants and homes of Streator.

The milk sold by Mr. Daugherty is taken directly from his own herd of 75 pure bred Hol-

stein-Friesian cows. The milk from Holstein cattle is said by physicians and experts to be remarkable for its stimulating and nourishing qualities, and its freedom from disease. Great care is exercised by the Cloverdale Dairy in its treatment of the product. Barns are white-washed twice annually, cows are rigidly inspected, and isolated at once if shown to be touched with taint.

The feed for the cattle is home grown on the

Cloverdale farm of 387 acres. Fine pastures abound, water flowing from living springs is plentiful, and all the conditions needful for the maintenance of healthy cattle are present. The winter feed is raised on the farm. Three crops a year of alfalfa are raised and an abundance of corn silage, which is stored in two silos holding 500 tons of fodder.

Among the movements of the past quarter of a century none have done more to erect farming to the dignity of a science than those directed to improving the quality of the stock.

One of the best producers is Pieterje Lass Aggie Netherland 2d, and she has an official record of 20,165 pounds of milk in a year and 660 pounds of butterfat, equal to 825 pounds of butter. When it is remembered that a few years ago 10,000 pounds of milk in a year was thought a wonderful record, the above figures will give some idea of the remarkable advance made in stock breeding and milk production.

The Cloverdale Herd has a wide reputation all over the United States and Canada. Streator's Holstein stock may be found in nearly



It is 23 years since Mr. Daugherty first gave his attention to this important subject. At that time he had a herd of common mixed cows and by careful attention to selection in breeding he has completely transformed the herd. He has now 75 head of pure bred registered Holstein Friesian cows. Every animal is officially tested for milk and butter. The average yield of 30 of these cows for one year was 15,763 pounds of milk, and 520 pounds of butter fat. This is equal to nearly 650 pounds of butter per cow, not far from two pounds per day.

every state in the union, and the demand is constantly on the increase. Farmers and dairymen are finding out that it pays no more to own poor stock than poor tools, and so it is that Mr. Daugherty's business is growing more and more in the direction of breeding each year. With a herd containing 150 members A. R. O. cows and their descendants, and with 23 years of personal experience with one highly selected herd behind him, Mr. Daugherty occupies a position in the forefront of the breeders of the country, and is able to speak with authority.

## WOULF BROS. STOCK FARM

Streator is surrounded by one of the richest agricultural regions on earth, and in no district has there been greater progress in the past quarter century. Especially is this true in the culture of pure breeds of draft horses, which has been raised to a remarkable degree of perfection. The countries of the old world have been ransacked for the finest specimens of their purest breeds, and there is today on the stock farm of Thomas and James Woulf, near Streator, the champion Percheron stallion of

the world, Major D'Hoochebeke, 2056 (24898), winner of first prizes in Europe and America that entitled him to the proud distinction of being the superlative horse of his class in the world.

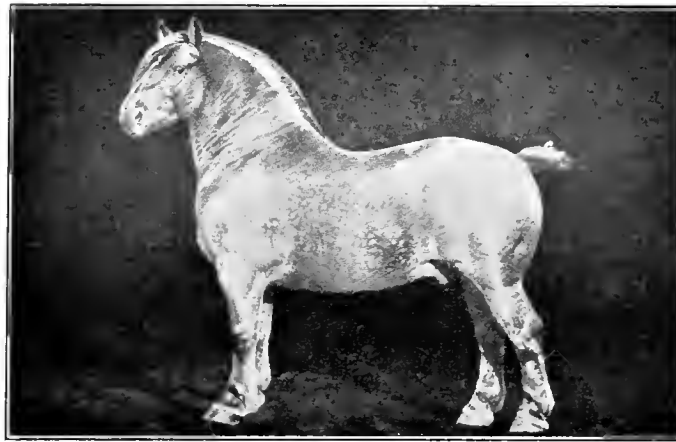
The brothers came on the Woulf farm in infancy, and have grown up in the business of horse breeding. Their splendid barn is equipped especially for horse raising, and is fitted with modern conveniences. They make regular visits to France and Belgium and make

four importations yearly, bringing over pure bred Percheron and Belgian stallions and mares, and dealing in nothing but the best these countries produce. Their horse sales extend from Atlantic to Pacific, and in the year 1910 they bought and sold more horses and mares than any other firm in the state.

Despite the introduction of motor vehicles the value of pure bred horse flesh was never as high as now and the Woulf brothers are enthusiastic believers in the future of the Percheron and Belgian horses. The long scientific

to \$1,200 for mares. Weights of horses at head of stud range from 2,200 to 2,400 pounds. A seven-months old colt has weighed 1,120 pounds. Some idea of the magnitude of the horse business can be had when it is known that the sales range from \$20,000 to \$50,000 per year. Sales are always to the highest bidders, and are made without reserve.

Both brothers live on the old home farm, where they continue with the labors of their hands, in the field and around the barn, much as they did when poor boys. They may be



Major D'Horebeke, 2056 (24898.) Champion of the world.

breeding in the Old World has produced systematically developed types of animal beauty, nobility, intelligence, symmetry, size and strength that is unequalled for draft purposes. The infusion of this strong and virile blood is making a wonderful improvement in American stock. They have now 75 pure bred horses and mares on the farm, and the value of the best horses ranges from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The actual prices obtained at their semi-annual sales range from \$1,000 to \$2,800 for horses, and from \$600

found at home any time except when across the water buying blooded horses or traveling around the neighborhood with their prize stallions, and they are always ready to welcome friend or stranger, especially if he is interested in the noblest animal in the world—which they think is the pure bred draft horse. A letter will reach them via Rural Route No. 8, Streator, Phone, either Farmers' or Independent Central at Ransom, Ill.

## THE HARVEY DRAY & TRANSFER COMPANY

It was a good deal like "sending coals to Newcastle," but this firm was the first that saw the opportunity that lay in opening a coal yard in Streator for the sale of foreign coals. The Streator product is essentially a steam coal, and there was as a quality in Southern coal for domestic purposes that made it desirable. With keen foresight and enterprise the Harveys saw that an opening could be made here for a local

yard, and with characteristic courage they backed their judgment with their money and built a place for the housing of their business. The result has justified their venture. Last year they sold 5,000 tons, and next year they expect to double it, and are planning the erection of chutes to facilitate handling. Two advantages have accrued to the public from their enterprise. First, the incoming of Southern

coal has served to regulate the home price of the local product; and second, the presence of the local supply has caused the dealers to ship in the foreign article at a greatly reduced



John F. Harvey.

price. Thus Streator has been the gainer in both ways by the enterprise of the Harveys. They also handle the smokeless West Virginia coal, both domestic and smithing.

Originally organized for coal handling, their business has branched out in many directions. They handle all kinds of building materials, and are special distributors of Medusa cement. They are agents for the J. I. Case line of steam threshers and agricultural implements, as well as their automobiles. They have branched out extensively into the general contracting business, and most of the heavy contracts for excavation, such as the new bridge, the Elks, and the Williams building, have been awarded to them.

They do a large delivery and drayage business, two of their teams constantly employed at that work, while half a dozen more are employed in the coal business. They are also local distributors for the Washburn Crosby, the Pillsbury and three other leading flour mills of the country, and maintain a storage depot for the flour till it is distributed.

The Harvey Dray and Transfer Company is a partnership, consisting of E. L. and J. F. Harvey—father and son. E. L. Harvey is one of the oldest residents of the city, and noted as one of its quaintest wags and humorists. In early days known far and wide as the town blacksmith, he has been engaged in different lines of business, and now in his latter years is prospering in a new line of work. His son, John F. Harvey, the originator of the new departure, is one of the driving, pushing, forceful young business men of the town. He has plans for far-reaching expansions, looking toward a large and successful concern. He was born in Streator in 1878, was educated in the common schools, and took the business course at the High School.

## HOWELLS & HAMPTON, JOBBERS

The remarkable railroad facilities of Streator point to a development as a distributing centre for merchandise that has not yet been fully realized. With lines of railroad radiating outward like the spokes of a wheel from the hub, and with scores of thriving towns and villages dotting the prairies for hundreds of miles in every direction, it is curious that its advantages as a jobbing and wholesale centre were not sooner perceived.

However, about three years ago Streator was "discovered" as a prospective centre for the jobbing trade. The discoverers were a

couple of young men who had themselves for a number of years been representatives of Chicago houses. The thought came to them that what they had so long done for others they might do for themselves with equal success. And what center of distribution so favorable as their own home town?

They had for years been making the Northern Illinois territory from Streator. They knew every store in the territory, and they knew that from no other point could service be as prompt and speedy as from Streator. The drawbacks of Chicago were well known to them from ex-

perience. As Mr. Howells, the senior partner, remarked: "If I sent an order from my territory to Chicago I would be lucky to get it filled in three or four days, so great is the congestion of business in the big city. If I sent it to Streator, the customer would get the goods the next day. That is the advantage of Streator as a jobbing point for this territory, and it is an enormous one."



R. J. Howells.

They formulated their plan carefully, selected a territory for about fifty miles around Streator with which they were thoroughly familiar, picked a line of goods they knew would find a ready market, and went to work. The rule of purchase was: "Buy no more goods than we can discount the bills on." They have stuck to that rule, and though their progress has not been meteoric, it has been safe, substantial and steady. They buy no more goods than they can sell, and they take advantage of every discount. No one can undersell the man who discounts his bills, and who knows his trade thoroughly at both the buying and selling ends. It is not to be wondered at that their business has increased ten-fold in three years, and that they dream of a time when they will have a wholesale establishment in Streator to compare with the big Chicago houses.

The line selected by them was cigars, confectionery and grocers' specialties, and they have stayed closely by their selection. They are building up a strong trade for their line of ci-

gars, some of which they are exclusive distributors of. Among their 10-cent brands are the Leorna, Irene, Optima, Green Seal, Plantista and Havana Smokers; and their 5-cent list includes the Elbarra, Aaron Burr, Single Binder, Rosy Light and their own specialty, H. & H.

Both partners are in the prime of life and are experienced commercial travelers. Mr. Richard Howells is a graduate of the University of Hard Knocks, and, like other Streator youths found his way up into the sunlight of success by the aid of a pit lamp. He was born in Aberdare, Wales, in 1869, came to America at 8 years of age, went to work shortly after, picking slate at a pit-head in Pennsylvania. Before long he was promoted downward into the pit, and dug coal for several years in Streator. During the recurrent strikes of those days he learned the printing trade, and from that graduated on the road as a commercial traveler. He is one of Streator's respected citizens, a vestryman of the Episcopal church, for 14 years vice-president of the German Building & Loan Association, and a director of the People's Trust and Savings Bank.



Walter P. Hampton.

Mr. Walter Hampton was born in Gridley, Ill., in 1875, has been a salesman and commercial traveler the most of his days. He came to Streator fourteen years ago, has identified himself with its best interests, and is one of its highly regarded citizens.



## THE J. C. AMES LUMBER COMPANY

There is no concern that has more right to feel itself an integral part of Streator than the J. C. Ames Lumber Company. Two thirds of its buildings are roofed, sheathed, floored and finished with Ames' lumber, so it may rightly consider itself a large part of the body that the soul of Streator inhabits. Big buildings and small, mansions and shanties, the framework of Ames lumber is in all of them. The Motor Car Works, the D. Heenan Store, The Garfield School, the M. E. church, the Powers & Williams and the Elks' new buildings all these and many more bear on their inside structure the mark of the Ames Lumber Company. To furnish all these great interests with their

ager, who has been with the company since 1892.

With the passing of the years the growing business of the J. C. Ames Lumber Company will continue to press more heavily on the shoulders of J. C. Ames, or "Carlos," as he is more familiarly known to the companions of his youth. But the shoulders are broad and brawny, and equal to any burden, as the passing years bring poise and maturity of judgment. Young Mr. Ames is widely traveled and has had an unusual range of experience. He has seen government service and has participated in the great work of the century—the building of the Panama Canal. Having passed a youth of stirring adventure, he has returned to the old home, married, and has yoked his back to the business load which his elders must soon lay down.



Carlos Ames.

Clark Studio



Harry L. Manley.

Clark Studio

building material, to bear a high and honorable reputation in the trade for upwards of a generation is credit enough for any firm.

It began business in 1879 when J. C. Ames transferred his interests from hardware to lumber. He operated it as a private enterprise until 1891, when it was incorporated as the J. C. Ames Lumber Company. Although called to high public station, Mr. Ames has retained his interest in the company, and is still its president and principal stockholder.

The vice-president is his son, Mr. J. C. Ames, who is on the ground and participates actively in the business; and the secretary-treasurer is Mr. H. L. Manley, the responsible office man-

He is daily immersed in the business detail of the Ames lumber business, and is in active and personal charge of the yards. He has also taken hold of city affairs, and has a working interest in its upbuilding. He is a member of the Civil Service Commission controlling the police and firemen of the city, a member of the building committee for the new Elks' building, and a promoter of athletic sports, base ball, district fair, etc., everything that goes to make things lively in Streator.

## THE PLUMB HOUSE

The Plumb House is the oldest of Streator's hostelrys, and one of the most widely known. It was built in 1882 by a group of public spirited citizens for the purpose of giving the town a hotel that in magnitude and equipment would be commensurate with its growing requirements. The march of events is rapid in these days, and in 25 years the house that had been up-to-date and a little beyond when it was built had fallen a little behind the prevailing hotel standards. In 1907 the owner, with characteristic enterprise, remodeled the entire interior and brought it again up to the minute.

The Plumb House is now equipped with every convenience of a modern hotel, and Streator

will be called on to meet. The hotel now has 80 available rooms and plans are under consideration for adding new extensions which will increase this capacity. It is located on one of the principal corners of the Main street of the city, and yet far enough from the railroad centre to be free from the noise, smoke and dirt of the trains. The accompanying cut gives an indication of its architectural proportions.

Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson are thoroughly experienced hotel people, and know the requirements of the traveling public. Prior to coming to Streator they were in the business of hotel management in Chicago for years. There they had first the Gresham, and later the Oakland



can boast of a house equal to the expectations of its visitors, and commensurate with its achievements in other directions. It is provided with steam heat, electric lights, freight and passenger elevator, local and long distance telephones, hot and cold running water in all rooms, and also a fire escape in each room.

These improvements were made in the first year of the tenancy of the present landlord, Mr. Joshua Hutchinson, who, on assuming the management in 1907, thoroughly refurnished the house. Under his direction the hotel has prospered and it is now a question of whether the hotel must not soon be enlarged to meet the increasing demand for accommodations which it

Hotel, the latter being among the most important family hotels of the city. Their training has fitted them for handling the best and finest clientele, and Mr. Hutchinson is little inclined by experience or predisposition to put up with the rough or disorderly. The Plumb, therefore, has become a synonym for order, cleanliness, quietude, and all the qualities which well-mannered respectable, rest-seeking traveling people look for in their temporary home on the road.

Mr. Joshua Hutchinson was born in Queens County, Ireland, in 1848, and came to America in 1872. The first half of his life was given to the dry goods trade, and he served as sales-

man in some of the most famous houses, such as A. T. Stewart & Co., New York, and Charles Gossage & Co., Chicago. The latter half of his life has been spent in the hotel business, at

which he has achieved a gratifying success. He is an active supporter of all forward movements of the city, and especially friendly to its religious, educational and cultural interests.

## HOTEL REPUBLIC

The visitors to a town are not all attracted to the most pretentious establishments. Among travelers there are many to whom there are more important considerations than style or luxury, and to this numerous class the Hotel Republic makes its appeal. It offers comfort, it offers cleanliness, it offers well prepared, inviting, substantial meals to its guests, and its prosperity demonstrates that it fills a place the public would not willingly have vacated.

the week. That a hotel of this type is appreciated is shown by the fact that its rooms are always full, and its dining rooms show few unoccupied seats at meal times.

The proprietor is Mrs. Mary Lighthody, while the active cares of management fall on the able shoulders of her son-in-law, Mr. George Baldwin. The hotel was erected in 1893 and was operated with varying success and failure until the present management took hold in



The Hotel Republic is situated on the corner of Illinois and Hickory streets, opposite the Santa Fe depot. It is a substantial brick building of 38 rooms, equipped with gas, electric light and steam heat. It caters to the commercial traveler, and is the favorite stopping place of railroad men, many of whom have to lay over in Streator at the end of their runs. Its rates are \$1.50 per day, with special rates by

1907. The house was thoroughly renovated and modernized, and straightway began a career of prosperity that has remained unbroken until the present time. Asked the secret of his remarkable success Manager Baldwin replied:

"There are just two things in running a good medium priced hotel, but they are fundamental and indispensable. They are, good food and good beds. These involve a lot of

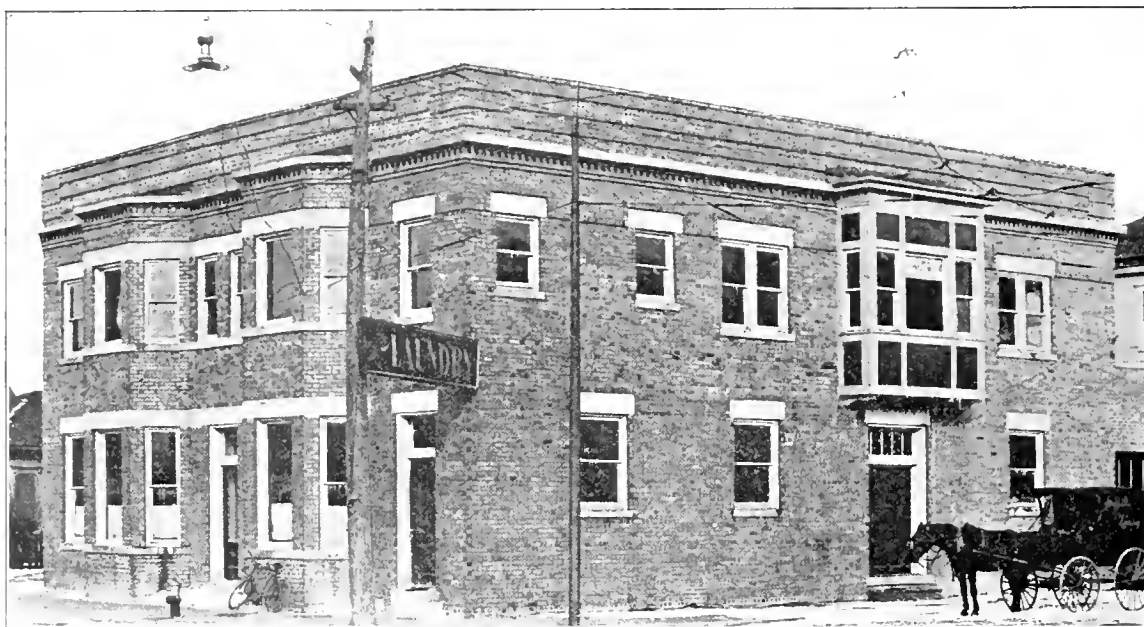
other things, such as good help, good supervision, good buying and good management. Above all, the most indispensable thing is cleanliness, and this requires tireless and unceasing vigilance. Unremitting attention to these details have given our house a good reputation and our trade is as much as we can accommodate. Our greatest need at present is an addition to the building. I may admit the business has been profitable, and we have made money. But not this year. Though the volume of business is undiminished, our profits are reduced to the vanishing point. This is on account of the enormous increase in the price of eatables. We aim to supply our table with as good and costly food as the high priced hotels; the only difference being in elaborateness of service and furnishings. The increase of prices therefore strikes us at a vital spot, and we cannot recover our

profit without raising our rates, and this we cannot do without sacrificing our position as the leading medium priced hotel of the town. Meanwhile we are holding up our standard, and retaining our trade, hoping that prices will take a favorable turn soon."

The editor records this little interview as a local instance of a feature of contemporaneous history that may become memorable. The present year may be remembered as the climax of the era of high prices.

Mr. George M. Baldwin, manager of the Hotel Republic, is practically a Streator product. He was born in Coalville, across the river, and is one of those coal miners of whom Streator is proud, who graduated from the pick by the aid of the pit lamp, and by talent rose out of the darkness of the mine to achieve a substantial success in the business world.

## THE GRIFFITH LAUNDRY



A business concern equipped with modern machinery, new building, centrally located.

Up-to-date in all its departments. Owned and operated by W. J. Griffith.

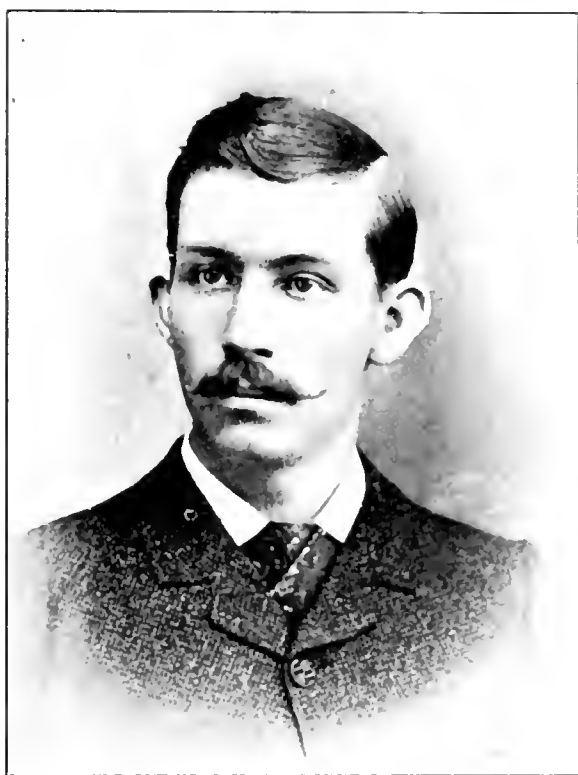
## THE STREATOR STEAM LAUNDRY

The wonderful impetus to co-operative housekeeping finds no auxiliary so potent as

the steam laundry. To get the washing out of the house is the first great step in that ban-

ishment of the housewife's drudgery which is essential not only to the solution of the servant girl problem, but also to the preservation of the American home.

But it must be a good laundry. It must be clean, it must be careful, and above all, it must send the housewife's own clothes back—and not some other body's. This takes the most scrupulous sort of attention, else the laundry will fail, though it have the best machinery in the world. It is in this special quality of attention to detail that the Streator Steam Laundry excels. Its proprietor, John J. Woolley,



John J. Woolley.

has been in the business for 16 years in Streator, and it is to this never tiring quality of patience and vigilance that his success is due. In these 16 years the business has grown to large proportions. It includes the business of all the hotels, a great number of the best homes, and it has fifteen agents in other towns, such as Chillicothe, Toluca, Ransom, Cornell, etc., who pour in a large volume of business.

In this rapid moving age it is necessary of

course to keep up with the times in the matter of equipment, and the Woolley laundry has the best. It has five Ideal washers of the latest type, and these allow the separation of the great mass of material without too much mixture. The white clothes have one machine, the colored clothes another, white shirts another, table cloths still another. Overalls and workmen's clothes are given a special machine, which is used for no other purpose.

The costliest item of laundry equipment is the mangle, and Mr. Woolley has one of the largest capacity, the American Co.'s Six Roll Flat Work Ironer, with 110 inch rolls. This has a daily capacity of 1,800 shirts. The most recent acquisition is a special cuff ironer, which insures a longer life and finish to the cuff. There are wristband and neckband ironers, collar and cuff starchers, reverse body and sleeve ironers, body irons and numerous devices the mention of which would only confuse the initiated. In place of the family wringer, however, it may be mentioned that the clothes are wrung without abrasion by what is called an Extractor. It is solidly built of metal and runs at a velocity of 1200 revolutions per minute. The clothes are dried in a steam-heated Truck Dry Room, the inside of which is covered with a lining of bright tin. It will not corrode, and cannot stain the clothes. Needless to say that by the time the clothes pass through this process they are thoroughly sterilized, and there need be no fear of germs.

But invaluable as is the modern machinery, Mr. Woolley lays most of his stress on experienced and competent help. The force is thoroughly organized, and there is an expert at the switch at each machine. The big mangle requires four to operate it, and some of the work can only be completed by hand finishers. Some of the help has been with Mr. Woolley for seven years, and every effort is made to keep the best grade of labor. The union scale of wages is paid and a 9-hour day prevails.

John J. Woolley was born on a farm in Freedom Township, La Salle County in 1859. His father, Dr. Milton Woolley, was an astronomical student of note, and his work of paralleling biblical and zodiacal myths attracted considerable comment. The family came to Streator about 35 years ago, and the proprietor of the Streator Steam Laundry has made it his home ever since.

## FINLEN & COMPANY, MORTICIANS

One of the tenderest sentiments of the human heart, and one of the most universal, is that which impels us to show our love for the departed by a fine and fitting treatment of its bodily vestment. Unfortunately this beautiful sentiment, under current usages, is made use of to tyrannize over the living under the guise of paying respect to the dead. Too many families, broken by sorrow, and impoverished by long illness, are made to carry the additional burden of a needlessly expensive funeral by this appeal to the fine affection that makes them want to show honor to the departed. So they are weighted down with a debt which

the service, or the dignity of the occasion.

The leaders of this movement in Streator are Finlen & Company, who have opened a new establishment at 202 W. Main street. The fact that the firm is also connected with its own livery stables enables it to effect a saving for its clients as well as offering a convenience. It is the custom among the livery people to pay the undertaker a commission on all carriages, hearses, or vehicles used. In the case of Finlen & Co. this commission goes directly to the client and helps to reduce the cost of the funeral. The quarters of the Finlen livery are directly adjoining the undertaking rooms, and



Office and Reception Room.

Clark Studio

may burden them for years, and all because custom and business interest has prompted an overexpensive funeral.

A movement has been taking form in recent years looking toward the removal of this unnecessary burden from the backs of poor people. A new type of morticians have come into being, who, realizing how crushing is the burden of funeral debt, have determined on a policy that will reduce it to a minimum. Working hand in hand with modern casket makers, and being willing to work for a moderate profit, they have been able to greatly reduce the cost of funerals without in any way diminishing the richness of the casket, the efficiency of

their matched teams, funeral carriages and equipment are recognized as among the finest in the county. All arrangements for carriages etc., can be made directly with the undertaker, and the client thus relieved of looking after these details.

The Finlen undertaking rooms are the only ones in the city provided with a chapel. Here funeral services may be conducted as in a church, with proper seating accommodations for attendants. Parties who bring a funeral cortege from other cities will find the chapel a great convenience for the conducting of funeral services, either by the clergy or by fraternal orders. The use of the chapel is free to

all, regardless of sect or denomination.

While having special regard for moderation in price the Finlen Company want it understood that the quality of their goods is not surpassed by any in the market, either in richness, beauty, or elegance of design and finish.

The active member of the firm is Mr. Charles M. Finlen, son of the well known livery

man, Mr. C. Finlen. He is a typical Streator boy, born and reared here. His wide acquaintance will assure him a favorable introduction, and his ability and experience will no doubt win him an honorable position in his chosen profession. Those requiring his services will receive a prompt response by calling at 202 West Main street, or through phone 63.

## TEBERG, THE SHOE MAN

W. M. Teberg, one of the proprietors of the Streator Wear You Well Shoe House, and the owner and proprietor of two well equipped shoe repair establishments in the city, is a workman who by close attention to every detail of his business, by tireless energy and industry, and

ness in the delivery of orders.

In the repairing of boots and shoes there is big opportunity for the use of false and shoddy material and yet in few lines is the need of good material more apparent or more necessary.



The Teberg Shoe House.

by a determination to give to his patrons full value in all things at all times, has won for himself recognition as a business man and artisan. Mr. Teberg is a believer in good goods and good workmanship, coupled with prompt-

He calls his place of business the "Electric Shoe Repairing Shops" and the name gives character to the work and the work gives character to the name. The word "Electric" carries with it, to the average intelligence, the



idea of modernity, quickness, efficiency, thoroughness, and the half hourly practice of the Teberg Shops in soleing and heeling and otherwise making for service purposes new shoes out of old ones, while you wait, is proof that the word "Electric" as a name, finds rightful usage here.

The Teberg Exclusive Repair Shop is at 107 North Monroe street, just off Main street. It was here that he really got his start and it is to this place that persons, needing his services, go. His other place is at 418 East Main street, and is run in connection with the Wear-You-Well Shoe House and the Katsioulas Shoe

Dressing and Hat Cleaning Concern.

Realizing the possibilities of the shoe repairing trade, when judiciously managed and directed and backed by reasonable intelligence, Mr. Teberg is seriously contemplating at this time the extension of his shoe repairing business to neighboring cities, with Streator as a center, and he says that he was partly urged to this decision by the fact that Streator has such excellent passenger and shipping facilities.

Mr. Teberg was born in Chenoa in 1882, and came to Streator some four years ago.

## T. J. MERRINER, REAL ESTATE

Real estate and real estate men have much to do with the upbuilding of every community—on the activity, community interest and sense of values of men thus engaged, the future of every city much depends. There are those



T. J. Merriner.

buying and selling lands, lots and houses who are in the business because they have idle capital and see money in it; but there are others who have no choice—there are men who to the profession are born; they are known as natural traders, and close to the top in this class stands T. J. Merriner.

Mr. Merriner was born in Virginia and

came to Illinois in the year 1878 and located in Streator. He apprenticed as a mason and after mastering the details of the craft, worked as a journeyman, later branching out for himself as an independent general contractor in the building line, in which he continued until less than a year ago, when he opened a real estate office over the People's Trust & Savings Bank.



Where Mr. Merriner Offices.

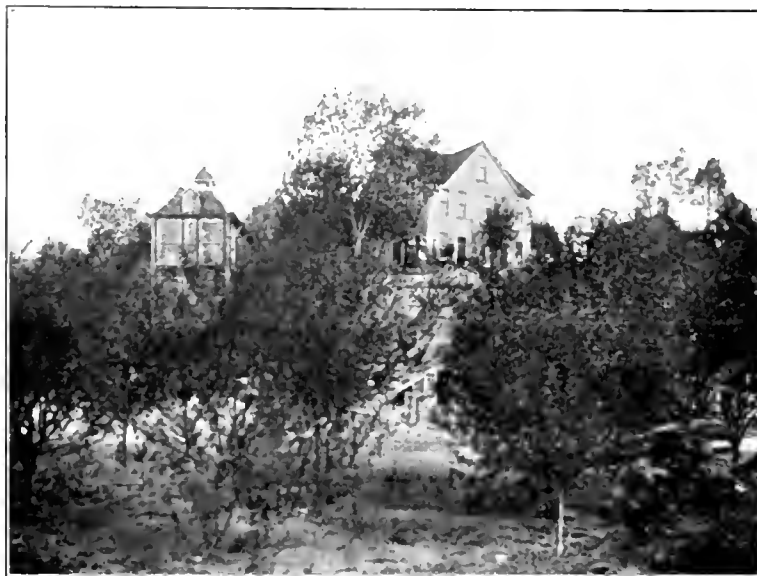
This departure on his part was but the culmination of his life's inclinations and intent, for during all of the years he had been a contractor he had been profiting by the opportunities afforded to learn land and lot and



location values, and as a result of the many transaction already entered into, when he opened his real estate office he had a variety of properties all his own. He had options on many other choice bits here and there over the

ing land investments in other growing and rapidly developing section, will make no mistake in talking the matter over with him before reaching a decision.

Here is one real estate man that sells and



Home of Mr. Merriner.

city, and a number of commission contracts in addition.

In addition to being well equipped with Streator properties, he is agent for farm lands in all sections of the country, especially to the North and Northwest, and parties contemplat-

ing trades for the love of the work and in the main relies on guaranteed constantly increasing values for reward. That manner of real estate agent is a necessity in every city, and the more of his kind that a municipality has the more rapidly it will progress to the front.

## THE JOHN NEUMAIER ELECTRIC COMPANY

Streator is now in a position to take care of its own electric work. Formerly if it became necessary to rewind an armature, it had to be sent out of town, a proceeding often inconvenient to owners of motors or generators. Now if any accident happens all that is necessary is to send them to the shop of the Neumaier Electric Company, or, if too large for that, they can be repaired on the spot. The Neumaier firm is also able to design and construct switchboards for any possible use, also to do the wiring of buildings under the most approved plans. They carry a complete line of electric supplies, such as vacuum cleaners, washing machines, toasters, ironers, lamps, sockets, fuses and the like.

Mr. John Neumaier, the head of the concern, is one of the prominent electricians of the

west. He was for some years electrical engineer for the Allis-Chalmers Company, of Milwaukee, and is frequently recalled to that city for expert work and consultation. Associated with him is Mr. John G. Lukach, for several years in charge of the electrical work of the American Bottle Company. At the head of the office force is Mr. William Ackerman, long and favorably known as the editor of the Volksblatt, and in later years the popular police magistrate of the city.

The company was incorporated on March 9, 1912 with a capital of \$10,000, with John Neumaier as president, John G. Lukach, vice-president, and William Ackerman secretary-treasurer. Their office is at 109 West Main street, Phone No. 375.

## THE BLUE FRONT RESTAURANT

The proprietor and manager of the Blue Front is John H. Swartz, and although when he assumed ownership and control he was without training or experience in the work, he has given to the business such intelligent application that today he is master of its every detail.

Mr. Swartz is a Streator boy, having been born on the banks of the Vermillion river, just across the county line, twenty-five years ago. He attended school in Streator, and when through with school life, concluding he would

the best markets and served in a way that leaves little to be desired and nothing to be complained of when prices are considered, the highest point in the public restaurant line has been reached. The Blue Front eating house at 212 Main street, is such a place, and the fact is generally recognized by the people of Streator who are compelled by circumstances to take their meals in public places.

The Blue Front is ideally located in the very heart of the business district, the room is cool



Blue Front Cafe.

like to see some other parts of the country, left for Chicago and later gravitated west and located in Kansas City, in which city he worked for some time, but the call of Streator was ever present and two and one-half years since he returned and bought an interest in the business he owns and directs today.

A cool, comfortable, clean and well lighted place in which to eat contributes much to the graces of living. When these conditions are reinforced by good goods brought fresh from

and is kept well ventilated; the linen is inviting and the general tone and conduct of the restaurant such as to command respect. The menu covers such a broad field along the lines of catering to the needs of the inner man that the tastes and caprices of all are complied with in a most satisfactory way.

In keeping with long established usages, the restaurant is open night and day, and many find in this a big convenience.

## ED. GROSSMAN CIGAR FACTORY

The Ed. Grossman Cigar Factory at 208 Main street, is a Streator concern that promises development. The firm name formerly was Brannon & Grossman, and the factory at that time was in the rear of the J. J. Brannon store, but recently Mr. Grossman acquired sole ownership, moved into larger quarters, doubled the number of employes and at present is centering his whole thought and energy in the making of a line of cigars that must appeal to the discriminating smokers of this city and of the neighboring towns and cities where his goods find a ready market.

In five cent lines Mr. Grossman is emphasizing the "Red Seal" and "The Moose," into which he is putting in fillers and wrappers the best material possible consistent with a high grade five cent article. In the three for a quarter and straight ten cent cigar the "Don Gusto" is his and the public's favorite, and to the lovers of a big smoke with quality this cigar appeals.

Ed. Grossman, like many others of Streator's substantial men, was born in Germany; that was 35 years ago, and with his parents came to America when he was a child. While still a youth he became an apprentice in the cigar-making trade and when merging into manhood was looked upon as a skilled artisan.

At the age of twenty, with several other Streator young men, "Ed." became a member of the Streator Zouaves, a theatrical organiza-

tion formed in this city, and for nearly nine years he linked his fortunes with this company, during which time he saw much of America and Europe.



Ed. Grossman.

When world wandering had lost its attractions and the footlights no longer possessed a charm, he returned to America and Streator and applied himself at once to his trade. His present position gives promise of an active and successful business career.

## F. PLUMB'S CENTRAL PARK ADDITION

A new addition by Fawcett Plumb is an event in Streator. Real estate operators sit up and take notice because of the margins they can make in handling the new lots. Home makers take a lively interest because in buying of F. Plumb they get in on the ground floor, and can buy a lot at bottom prices on easy payments. The last addition laid off by him, South Park, went off like hot cakes and lots that he sold for \$200 cannot now be bought at \$1,000.

Central Park addition is Mr. Plumb's latest offering and is the last piece of acre property

left in the interior of the city. It was withheld from settlement for years after the town had grown up around it on all four sides, and is the only chance left to get a lot in the heart of the city at original prices. Any additions to be sub-divided hereafter must be on the outskirts, and involve a car fare or a long walk to the lot buyer.

Central Park Addition is five minutes walk from the opera house corner, right at the edge of the East Main street paving. Arrangements have been made to pave Main street to the farther end of the addition this fall. The town

has grown far to the east beyond it, and this block of 27 acres is surrounded on all sides by beautiful homes.

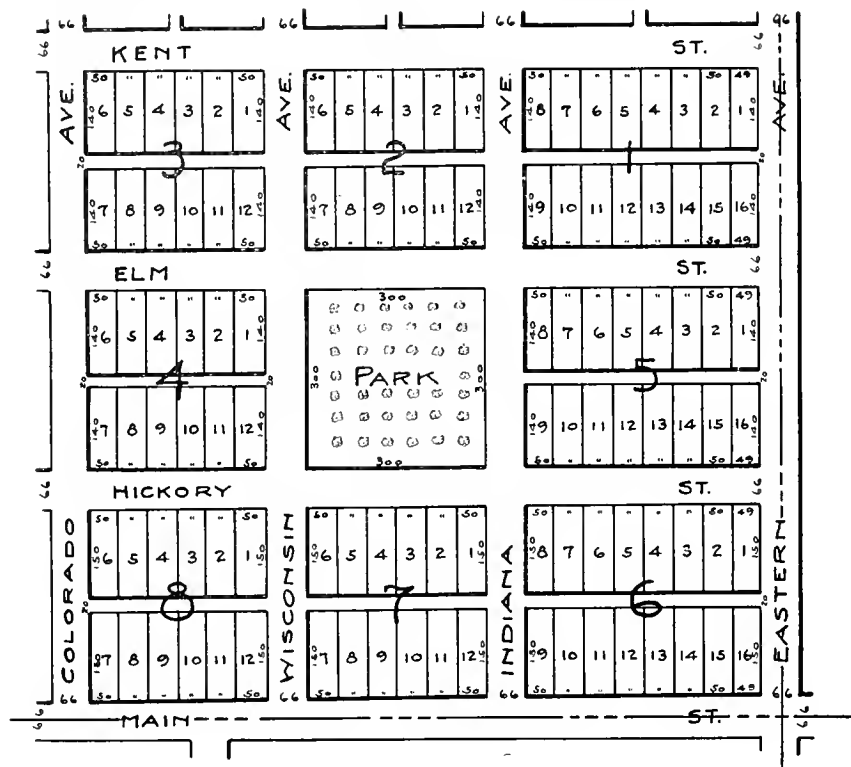
#### Public Park Reserved in Centre.

The addition derives its name from the fact that Mr. Plumb has reserved a full city block in the centre of the plat and has dedicated it to public uses as a park. Already a large number of quick-growing shade trees have been planted in the park and throughout the addition, and soon their grateful foliage will make pleasant shade for mothers to rest and children

addition will repeat the experience of South Park, and no more lots can be bought from the original platter, but must be purchased from second or third hands at four or five times the present price.

#### The Plumb Policy.

The regular Plumb policy, under which two-thirds of the lots in Streator have been sold, will be continued in the new addition. That policy is: A small payment down, and easy monthly payments, with perfect assurance that no advantage of any sort will ever be taken of



Central Park Addition.

to play under. The city has taken over the park and has begun to improve it as part of the city park system.

#### An Adequate Sewer System.

Forewarned by past experiences, Mr. Plumb has averted the expense and inconvenience of torn up streets by putting in a complete sewer system in advance. Every street is provided with a sewer and every house has access to it.

Though only recently placed on the market, a half dozen substantial homes have been built and occupied. There are many inquiries, and no doubt it will be only a short time until this

the purchaser. It is that policy pursued for over forty years that has made Streator a town of home owners. Under it forty-two additions to Streator have been laid out by Mr. Plumb and over 2,500 lots sold, not one of which has been the cause of dispute between buyer and seller, or the subject of adverse forfeiture. Mr. Plumb expects to continue doing business to the end of the chapter on these lines; and invites attention to Central Park Addition, which he thinks is the best of all the offerings he has made to Streator in his forty years of real estate transactions.

## BROWN'S BUSINESS COLLEGE



Brown's Business College, by abolishing the "Apprentice System," and by substituting therefor the practical training heretofore only obtainable in actual business affairs, has solved one of the great problems that in the past perplexed the head of every concern.

By virtue of this department the College not only equips the student for her work, but through the employee transmits to the business man a thought out and perfected standard of accuracy and efficiency that cannot fail of quick and big results in commercial enterprises.

Brown's Business College has done a wonderful work in making theory in business training subordinate to the practical, and business men all over the country in search of competent aids are evidencing their appreciation of this radical change in teaching methods, by giving employment to the graduates of the Brown School.

## FOREST C. PETTINGILL, WHOLESALER OF FLOUR AND FEED

Forest C. Pettingill, the wholesale flour, feed and hay man, is a name familiar to the city of Streator and is associated closely with the city's activities.

Mr. Pettingill was born in Newburyport, Massachusetts, where he passed the earlier years of his life and where he still has some property interests, but to him, as to a great number of New England's sons, then and now, the cry and promise of the West were alluring, and yielding to it he left the East and located in Streator, established business, built a home and reared and educated a family here.

Recently Mr. Pettingill erected a big warehouse on the corner of Vermillion and Bridge streets, the structure is one-story, 140x53 feet, constructed of Streator paying brick that will endure through the centuries. Inside the building is so apportioned and arranged as to accommodate every need of his business, and located as it is, close to or practically in the business district, and yet convenient to the railroad freight houses, the conditions are ideal.

Mr. Pettingill is the exclusive agent for several of the highest grade brands of flour, and

the quality of his goods, coupled with the close margin of profits, with which he is content, has enabled him to attract and hold trade over a wide expanse of territory. As this is the



only exclusive wholesale house in these particular lines in Streator, there can be no doubt the volume of business done will increase from year to year as it has from the beginning.

## THE WAGNER BEAUTY PARLORS

The history of Streator would not be complete without some appreciation of the more gracious and refining aspects of its evolution. For, as Richard Le Geilliene recently said, life is not all iron and granite, it is beauty and love and service. The apostles of beauty in Streator have not been numerous, but they have been effective and loyal.

Miss Emma Wagner is the pioneer in the art of the aesthetic expressed in the science of personal adornment, and it was through the opening of her parlors seven years ago that women became conscious of their obligations toward personal attractiveness and have ever since been cultivating their sensibilities in this direction.

### In Former Times.

Prior to the opening of Miss Wagner's beauty parlors and during the first months of her activities women were ashamed of their

awakened consciousness, and came and went by stealth, afraid of being laughed at and made ridiculous. Today the well-groomed woman is a joy to all beholders, and is proudly conscious of her inalienable rights to co-operate with nature in making herself as charming as possible.

Oily hair, pimply skin, uncared for finger nails and an unkempt appearance are no longer regarded as badges of respectability, but of a slovenly, disordered life, and the woman who makes good today professionally and socially must present a well groomed, attractive exterior; it is her most valuable asset in public esteem.

### The Story of Her Beginning.

Miss Wagner has always been proficient in the art of beautifying. At the age of seven it was her delight to dress hair in the latest fashion, and when other children were playing with dolls she was developing an expertness in hair

arrangement which has culminated today in the reputation of being the most proficient artist in this line in the state outside of Chicago.

Having suffered for several years with a skin eruption which no experts could ever cure, Miss Wagner went to Chicago and began her study of the skin, and the proper methods of restoring health and beauty to skin tissues. Having mastered her own case, she became interested in all the general aspects of the art, and after familiarizing herself with all the noted methods in vogue, returned to Streator to put the benefits of her training into practical service for the use of her patrons.

#### Her Personal Equipment.

There are at present thousands of well equipped beauty parlors throughout the state, but only one Emma Wagner. She went into the work for the love of it, and because of this she is one of the most expert, conscientious and reliable artists in her profession. She has all the German thoroughness, their love of cleanliness and order, their honesty and integrity of purpose, their loyalty and stability of character. She possesses the delicacy, yet firmness of touch which is so essential to massage work; she is eminently progressive, full of the modern spirit of pluck and enterprise; she is hu-

manely sympathetic, keenly intuitive in her judgments and would rather score results at any cost than conserve her own energies.

#### Her Shop.

There is no more up-to-date, attractive, convenient, well equipped beauty parlor outside of Chicago than Miss Wagner operates for the benefit of her patrons. All the electrical appliances known to science which will aid in the processes of beauty culture are at her disposal. She is always adding to her equipment. Her stock of hair goods, face creams, powders and lotions are of the best, for she will endorse no others. An attractive assortment of hair ornaments and novelties have been added recently to her stock, making everything complete and attractive.

With the growth of Streator this business will expand in proportion for women are never going to return to their slipshod ways of yore. The science of being attractive is gaining its votaries from every walk of life, and it is a safe prophecy that this energetic, self-reliant young business woman will see her fondest dreams realized, for skill and beauty and efficiency win out every time, and these are her chief characteristics, her guarantee of permanent success.

## THE WILLIAMS HARDWARE COMPANY

The cut presented herewith shows a view of the Williams Hardware Company. It is the latest as well as one of the largest of Streator's mercantile structures, and it represents the culmination of a line of mercantile development that began in 1885. In that year Charles H. Williams came to Streator from his father's farm, about ten miles northwest of town. Had he followed the lines of ancestral predisposition Charles would have been a professional man, a brain worker, as were his fathers before him—a long line of New England scholars and teachers who ran back to Roger Williams. His father, Rinaldo Williams, one of the finest and gentlest of scholars, and one of the most revered names in the history of the county, was County Superintendent of Schools for many years, and later principal of the Streator High School.

But Charles elected the hardware business as his life's calling, and at the age of nineteen entered the hardware store of Powers Bros. as

clerk. The date of this writing, May, 1912, finds him still in the same store, only now he is proprietor where 27 years ago he was clerk. This fact may be significant of the quiet tenacity of his nature, which has in it little of the restlessness and excitability of our generation, but which without haste and without noise sticks to its task till it is thoroughly mastered. That Charles H. Williams is a past master of the retail hardware business all who know him will testify. Not only is it attested by the remarkable development of his business, which now requires the largest hardware store between Chicago and Decatur for its accommodation, but it is evidenced by the suffrages of his fellow hardware merchants, who for two years elected him president of the Illinois Retail Hardware Association, and later chose him for president of the National Retail Hardware Association, the highest honor in the gift of his guild.

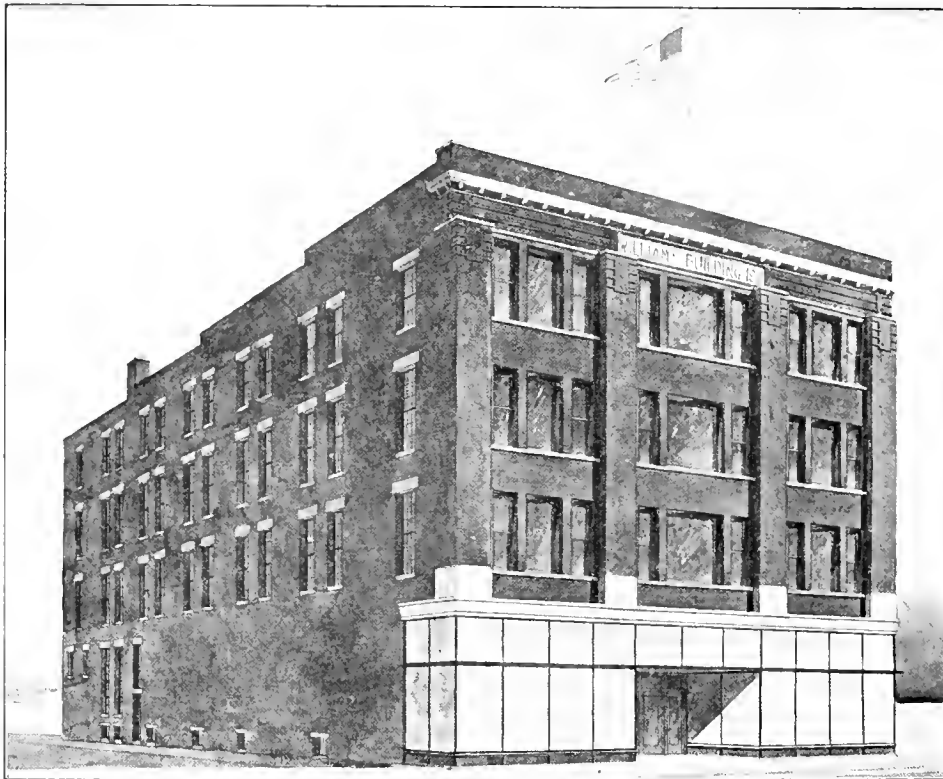
Needless to say that the business talents so



conspicuously recognized by his fellow merchants find their highest exercise in the service of his own people. One of the aims most consciously pursued during a quarter century of merchandising has been to raise the volume of business to a point where it would justify buying goods directly from the manufacturer, thus enabling him to secure a higher quality of goods and to meet the competition of wholesalers and jobbers. This goal has been reached, and the Williams Hardware Company is now in most instances able to serve its customers with goods bought directly from the manufacturers under the most favorable terms and conditions.

General Roofing Company. It is the heaviest dealer and contractor in Streator for tin and sheet metal work, and it is a centre for the distribution of Pennsylvania lubricating oils for the state of Illinois.

The latter promises to become one of the greatest departments of the firm for the use of lubricating oils for automobiles and other purposes is greatly on the increase. The rock phosphate branch had a small beginning, for farmers were slow to awaken to the need of artificial fertilizers, but now they are thoroughly roused and carloads of phosphate are sent by the firm to many states of the union, north and south—Texas, Missouri, Virginia, Kentucky as



The New Store and Ware Rooms.

During the quarter century the business has greatly broadened from the simple hardware store of 27 years ago. It now includes a phosphate department, requiring its own elevator; an independent oil station for the handling of car loads of Pennsylvania kerosene and gasoline; a magazine for the handling of high explosives; a department devoted especially to window glass, and polished plate; and a storage warehouse where thousands of feet of space is rented to patrons. The firm is also the wholesale distributor of prepared roofings for the

well as Illinois and Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan and New York.

It is this wide expansion of business that has necessitated the erection of the new building which the firm will occupy on July 1, 1912. The building is built of brick and re-inforced concrete, and conforms to the requirements of the New York Board of Underwriters. It is therefore as nearly fire-proof as a building of this class can be made. It is 63x140 feet in size and is four stories high with basement. Each floor is of concrete and contains 8400 square



feet of floor space. It is drained into an abandoned mine about 100 feet beneath, and through it finds access to the river. The basement and first floor will be salesrooms; the second floor will be a supplementary salesroom and tin shop; the third floor will contain surplus stock; and the fourth floor commercial fireproof storage and surplus.

It is equipped with an up to date vacuum cleaner outfit, and will be provided with rest room, ladies' parlor and general waiting room



for the convenience of the public. This is an idea borrowed from the department stores of the great cities, and is introduced for the first time by Mr. Williams in Streator. There will be lockers provided for the storing of wraps or packages which visitors may desire to leave while in the city.

When the firm changes from its old to its new home its name will be changed from Powers & Williams to the Williams Hardware Company. During the years that have passed Mr.

Williams has acquired the Powers interests, and since he is practically the sole owner, it seems fitting that the name of the firm should show this fact. Though he has had an intensely active business career, Mr. Williams has found time for not a few civic and social duties. He has been for seventeen years a member of the school board, has been an officer of the Commercial Club, is now a director of the



Chas. H. Williams.

Union National Bank and of the Western Glass Company, and president of the Streator Chautauqua Association. His gift of speech is much in demand in public and social gatherings, banquets and the like, where his fund of anecdote and his dry humor are always welcome.

# STREATOR AQUEDUCT CO.

## STORY OF ITS BATTLE WITH BACTERIA AND ITS FINAL SOLUTION OF THE WATER PROBLEM.

The Streator Aqueduct Company was organized on Sept. 15, 1886. At the time of its establishment there were two possible sources of water supply for the city. The town was seriously divided as to the source from which water should be taken, one party under the leadership of Alderman John C. Campbell favoring the Vermillion River; the other, headed by Dr. Edwin Evans, the local scientific authority, favoring the fresh water springs north-east of the city in Otter Creek Township. After months of controversy the party of Dr. Evans, who urged the unhealthiness of the river water, finally prevailed; and by action of the council the water company was directed to obtain its supply from the Otter Creek springs. The plant was accordingly located north-east of the city, but after a year of service the supply was found to be inadequate, and recourse was had to the only remaining source—the Vermillion river.

In 1888 the Streator Aqueduct Company began to take steps to remove its plant. Land was secured on the river, about three miles above the city, the site of the present plant. At this point it was found that mill rights were owned by Mr. David Defenbaugh, which carried with them perpetual flowage rights. These were purchased by the company and a plant erected. In 1890 a dam was built at a cost of \$9,800, with 170 feet of roll way. This proved adequate until 1904, when the increasing demand for water made it necessary to raise the dam to a height of eleven feet and four inches above its base. This satisfies present needs, but the Aqueduct Company has since secured territory and flowage rights to enable them to raise the dam two feet higher, which, when built, will give them a storage supply of 275,000,000 gallons. The present consumption of the city is nearly 2,000,000 gallons daily, so the new elevation will give them over one hundred days' supply—far more than is ever needed under prevailing conditions of rainfall.

### Sufficient for City of 50,000.

But the company is not satisfied with supplying the present need of Streator, even at its maximum demand. With far seeing eye it looks forward to the inevitable growth of the city, and is making provision for it. It has gone eleven miles up the river and there purchased a site for another dam and impounding reservoir. Flowage rights are being secured of sufficient extent to permit the erection of a sixteen foot dam. When erected this dam will create a reservoir that will hold 350,000,000 gallons of water, which, added to the present capacity, will be adequate to the needs of a city of 50,000 people.

### Streator's Scattered Area.

One of the unusual features of the water situation in Streator is caused by its large area. Thus it requires 46 miles of pipe to satisfy the needs of its 3,800 water consumers; of which there are 37 miles of cast iron pipe from 4 to 20 inches in diameter, and 9 miles of smaller 1 to 2 inch pipe. Of the 3,800 consumers an unusual proportion are industrial or commercial users, the number being 452. The yearly revenue shows this proportion is still more striking fashion. Last year the domestic consumers paid the company \$26,000, while the railroads and industries paid \$23,000, being nearly one-half the revenue from those sources.

Supt. Huggans is authority for the statement that but for the support of the industrial and commercial users the company would not have been able to continue in business. The city pays for 271 public hydrants, and there are 15 private hydrants. In addition the city receives free water for its schools and other public buildings, for drinking troughs, display fountain and for flushing sewers and for fire purposes. The school buildings use 21,000,000 gallons annually, and it is estimated that fourteen per cent of all the water pumped goes for free consumption.

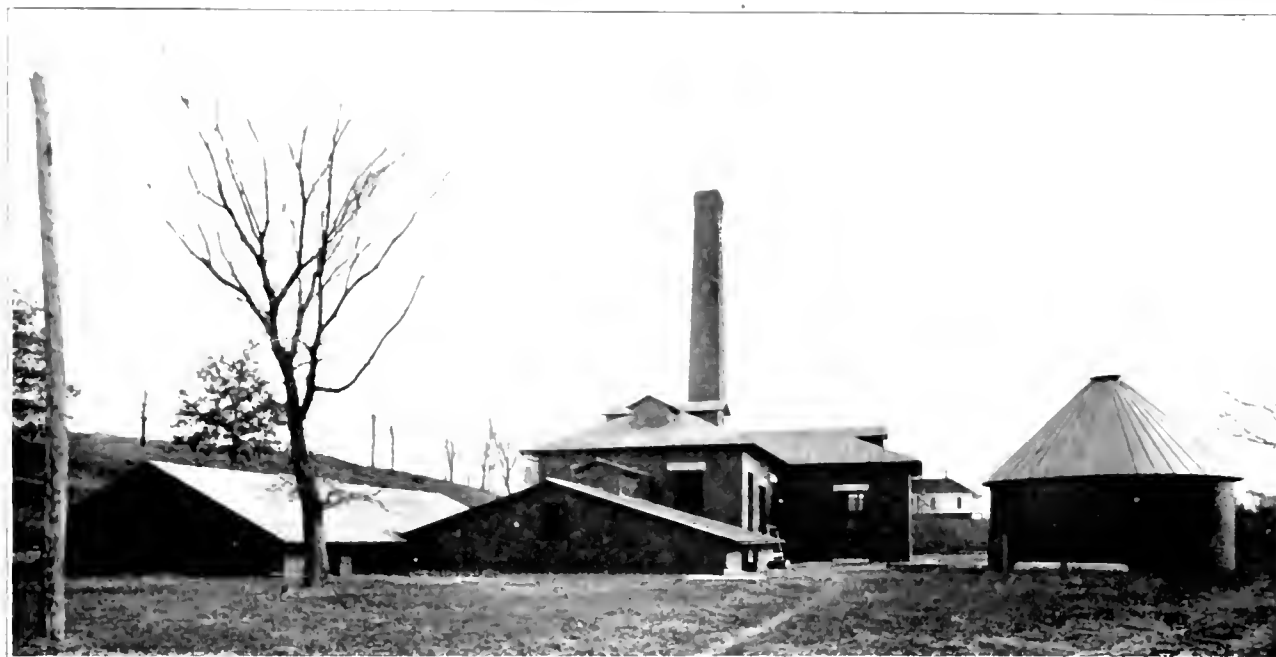
### The Equipment.

The nearly 2,000,000 gallons of water consumed each day is prepared and pumped by a modern, up to date mechanical equipment. It is lifted from the intake well by two low lift centrifugal pumps, each with a capacity of 3,000,000 gallons daily. By these the water is lifted to a height of 32 feet and deposited in the settling basin, where it receives its coagulants, and remains for five hours. From there it flows by gravity to the filters, from which it is conveyed to the clean water well, which holds over a million gallons of water, and from there pumped direct to the city. Two Gaskell pumping engines, one of 3,000,000 and one of 5,000,-

is notoriously among the worst streams in Illinois, and it was this knowledge that caused the council that granted the water franchise to demand that the company get its supply from Otter Creek springs, as before stated. The river supply in its raw state is unquestionably bad, a fact that may be the more freely admitted now that scientific advancement has made it possible to absolutely eliminate all elements dangerous to health or comfort.

### Battle with the Bacteria.

The existence of the Streator Aqueduct Company has been one long battle against the bacteria and the mud of the Vermillion river. How to kill the germs without killing the peo-



Water Works Power House.

000 gallons daily capacity send the city its daily supply of two million gallons, with ample margin of reserve. Power is furnished by a battery of boilers with a capacity of 150 horse power.

### Quality of Streator Water.

This bare mechanical outline gives little idea of the point most vitally interesting to the people of Streator, namely, the preparation of the water for domestic use. It has long been an open secret that the quality of Streator's water was one of its tenderest points, one dangerous to discuss before strangers such as this book is supposed to address. It may as well be admitted, however, that the Vermillion river

ple has been its most anxious and perplexing problem. Now that the problem has been solved, it is able to review its efforts, if not with equanimity, at least with the consciousness that it has labored earnestly, conscientiously, and with as much success as the larger cities that have been baffled by the same problem.

### The Mechanical Filter.

The first attempts to deal with the problem were along the line of improved filters. The mechanical filter was thought to be the solution of the long vexed problem, and in 1888 the Aqueduct Company put in the new filtering system, being the second mechanical filters to be

installed in the state of Illinois. It was an improvement, but it was not perfect; and at three different periods since that time it has been found necessary to rebuild them and bring them up-to-date. At the present time there are sixteen pressure filters, each containing 44 inches of sand, through which the water must percolate. There is a sand bed surface of 1,200 square feet, and as each square foot is figured to filter two gallons every minute, it will be seen they have a filtering capacity of over 3,000,000 gallons daily. These filters are thoroughly cleansed of their impurities every 24 hours by the forcing through them of air and water under five pounds pressure.

### The Coagulants.

The filters, however, only take out the residual dirt and impurities, and send the water on to the consumer, clean, clear and palatable. The heavy work of clearing the fluid of its heavy load of Vermillion river mud is done in the settling basin before it is sent to the filters, and here must be told the story of the coagulants. There are times of flood when the river water is nearly black with mud.

How is it to be cleared?

It is not enough to turn it into the great settling basin, to drive it over 265 feet of traveling space and then let it stand for five hours, as is done with every gallon of water. It will not settle of itself. The mud must be helped to separate from the water.

How do they help it?

They pour a solution of alum into the muddy water just as it flows into the tank. This alum unites with the alkali in the water, and this combination has the peculiar power of attracting the mud to it, and the weight of the particle thus formed carries it down to the bottom of the settling basin, from which it is periodically washed out. But it has been found that the Vermillion stream is very variable in the amount of alkalinity it contains, and there are times when the water is so soft that there is not alkali enough to unite with the alum to create a deposit. These occasions are rare, however, but when they occur, it becomes necessary to add to the water enough lime solution to secure the required alkalinity.

### Is the Alum Injurious?

Like many others, who have been alarmed by baking powder advertisements, the writer asked Supt. Huggans if the alum was not injurious to the health. He replied:

"Undoubtedly too much free alum would

tend toward constipation or diseases of that kind, but there is absolutely no free alum whatever in the water after it leaves the pumping station. When the alum unites with the alkali they completely neutralize each other, and become something else. It is just like oxygen and hydrogen, which, when united, become water. People should get it out of their heads that there is alum in the supply pipe just because we have to put it in at the settling basin. It is purely imaginary. Moreover the amount we use is very small, on an average not more than one and one-half grains per gallon. And it is so expensive that our interest may be relied on to make us keep it down to the minimum. But small or great, no part of it gets into the supply pipe, for it is wholly neutralized and absorbed by its chemical union with the alkali."

### The New Purifier.

Up to 1911 the improvements above described marked the farthest advance in the Aqueduct Company's preparation and treatment of water. By coagulation and filter they had separated the impurities thoroughly and the bacteria partially, from the water. It represented a great deal of outlay and effort, but still it fell short of a satisfactory solution. The bacteria were separated by the coagulum, but they were not killed; and there was always the haunting fear that some typhoid germ or colon bacillus would get by the separator and infect the user.

The year 1911 brought the latest improvement in the treatment of water. Experiments had been made for several years to find a satisfactory germicide that would be commercially available. Scientists had noticed the presence of chlorine gas in artesian waters that were free from bacteria. Acting on this hint a number of tests were made with bleaching powder, which is composed of chlorine gas and lime, and which is called hypochlorite of lime. The tests proved a remarkable success, and inside of five years New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Toronto, most of the large cities in fact, were using the new agent. After waiting until the new discovery had passed the experimental stage, the Aqueduct Company in October, 1911, put in the hypochlorite of lime treatment with most satisfactory results. Supt. Huggans feels assured that they are now able to make Streator water immune from disease breeding germs, and in August of this year a new coagulation basin with a capacity of 350,000 gallons is to be built,

where the hypochlorite and coagulants can be applied in the most exact and scientific manner.

### Laboratory Tests.

A laboratory has been installed at the plant under the direction of the State Water Survey, with equipment to make adequate chemical and microscopic tests. Chief Engineer Ralph Huggans has taken a course under the direction of the State Water Survey, and is able to make correct analysis and examinations of the water whenever required. A daily record is kept, which shows the condition of raw and purified water as to its bacteria, turbidity, alkalinity, color and the volume and weight of coagulant and bleach used. By the use of the laboratory tests the exact number of bacteria can be determined with accuracy and their dangerousness to health can be ascertained. The tests are chemical, microscopic and thermal and are accepted as scientifically authoritative on the subject of infection bearing germs.

### A Sample Test.

On April 24, 1912, a period of flood, there were found to be 326,000 bacteria in 29 drops of water. After treatment the same water showed only 8,000 bacteria, and no gas formers. "No gas formers" is a significant phrase in a water analysis, and means that it is free from disease breeding germs. There may still be bacteria present, but they are harmless.

How is the test made?

A sample of the water is put into a test tube containing a broth in which the germ may incubate. The tube is put in a heater, its temperature raised gradually to 100 degrees, about the heat of the body. If there are any disease germs present they will consume the broth in their reproduction and growth and in the space left by the broth thus consumed a gas will be formed. This gas when measured on a scale will show the presence and amount of bacteria. If there is no gas in the tube, it may be assumed with scientific certainty there are no typhoid or colon bacilli present. The result can also be checked up on the microscope to make assurance doubly sure. Measured by these rigorous scientific tests, the water record of the Streator Aqueduct Company has shown the significant talismanic symbol "No Gas Formers" for the entire year of 1912, and so it feels able to assure itself and the public that there are absolutely no deleterious bacteria present, and that the problem of healthy water for Streator is solved.

### Unremovable Tastes and Odors.

For those who may have misgivings about the healthfulness of this chemical it is only necessary to state that there can be no possible danger in the use of hypochlorite of lime. Long before it could produce a pathological effect its taste and smell would be so bad that no one could drink it; but even then it would be harmless. The bulletin of the state survey says that nothing less than three parts per million per gallon of chlorine can be tasted, and at present the company is only using 13-100 of a part per million. If ever by any mischance, however, the consumer gets a taste or smell of chlorine, he may be sure that it is not in the least dangerous. Tamarack water, caused by the steeping of the fluid in leaves, grass and other vegetation and especially prevalent during the melting of snows in the spring, cannot be freed of its odor or taste by any known process. But its bacterial danger can be eliminated, and whenever melting snows bring down water soaked with the taste of leaves and grass, it may still be used with the assurance that it is not harmful to health. In any event this bad taste and odor can occur but rarely in Streator.

### The State Water Survey.

While the Aqueduct Company has a thoroughly competent service, yet it is not wholly dependent on it. It is subject to visits from the inspectors of the State Water Survey, who may descend on it without notice at any time to make examinations, much after the fashion of bank examiners. It is also entitled to call on the experts of the State Water Survey at any time when unusual problems or conditions call for scientific counsel. This privilege it has freely availed itself of in the past whenever the caprices of the Vermillion river brought a problem not before experienced and calling for expert advice.

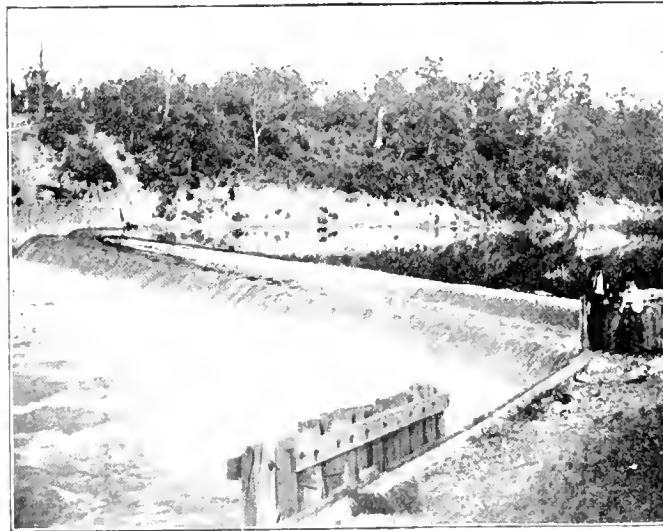
In this article the company has through the editor of this volume undertaken to state frankly and fully the problems of Streator's water supply, the efforts it has made to solve them, and the measure of success that has finally crowned its efforts. It believes that the quality of the water today is absolutely safe, sanitary and healthful, and that no condition can arise in the river to make it less safe. It is glad after a quarter of a century of service to give the assurance that both in quality and quantity the water supply of Streator is safe, satisfactory and adequate to the needs of a city of 50,000 inhabitants. It, moreover, cherishes the hope that in any matter of difference about the

cost of supplying the city and consumers with water, an impartial commission may soon be appointed by the state legislature to which all disputed questions may be referred. Meantime the plant of the company is open to visitors, and the public is invited to inspect the works of the company at its convenience.

#### Superintendent D. A. Huggans.

A word about the man who has been in charge of the plant for all these years may be of interest. Davidson A. Huggans was born of Scottish parents in New York City in 1856. He came to Streator at four years of age, went into the coal mines at thirteen, and remained there until twenty-five. Having a genius for mechanics, he was promoted out of the pit, and took charge of engines, pumps and boilers of the mine. On August 17, 1886 he accepted employment from the Streator Aqueduct Company, then establishing its plant here. In July, 1887, he was placed in charge and has been at its head ever since.

Like most of the early miners of Streator who have risen to commanding positions, Mr. Huggans was self educated. He took the correspondence course from the Scranton School, and received his diplomas in steam engineering and hydraulic engineering. He has served as member of the public school board for fourteen years, and on the high school board for five years. He served the township as its supervisor for four years, is prominent in the Masonic fraternity, and has been president of the board of trustees of the Church of Good Will. Mr. Huggans is regarded everywhere as one of the strong and forceful characters of the town, a man of unswerving loyalty and integrity, true to his convictions and his friends. Having known opposition he is a good fighter; having known hard work he is considerate to the worker; having known lowly station his heart goes out to those who are still struggling in the hard places of life, and with it goes a strong, generous helping hand.



Streator Aqueduct Dam.

# LOCAL MEN OF MARK

IN THIS SECTION ARE PRESENTED A FEW PEN PICTURES IN STREATOR'S GALLERY OF NOTABLES.

Every life has a story; every face has a picture. It is the task of the artist to make the story interesting; the picture a speaking likeness. To do this he must select his materials; omit the dull detail that clutters the picture; seize the salient, significant thing that gives it the breath of life, the touch of reality. He must have insight plus sympathy all-comprehending. Insight and sympathy will see only the good, for only the good is positive. Evil is negative, nescient; it is only the shadow. And who wants to paint shadows?

It is in this spirit that the portraits in this volume have been sketched. There may be those who view the subjects treated herein at

such close range that they will see nothing but defects; and these will miss the familiar moles and pimples in these pictures. They are left out so as not to distract attention from the positive and vital truth that the life stands for. What we dislike in an appreciation is not praise but falsehood. The appreciation must be true, else it is offensive. The artist who is fit for his work must have the eye to see the gleam of the true in every subject, and sufficient mastery of his medium and tools to release and reveal it. Failing to see the glint and glimmer of beauty, he must reject the subject; and on no account degrade his brush to the paintings of darkness and defect.

## OSCAR B. RYON

The highest public position held by any citizen of Streator at this writing is that occupied by Mr. O. B. Ryon. Measured by magnitude of its scope and largeness of its opportunity, it is doubtless the most important office ever held by a citizen of this city.

The office is non-political. There is none like it. It has no antecedents, and no precedents. It may be fairly said that it was created for Mr. Ryon. That is, it waited for its establishment until a man possessing his peculiar talents, training, and experience could be found to fill it. It is within the writer's knowledge that for several years he has had urgent offers to accept service in this interest, but not until recently was the office given such definite shape that he felt justified in accepting.

What is the office?

It has a name, but its name doesn't explain it. As I view it, Mr. Ryon's new business is to rationalize the fire insurance system of America, and to interpret it to the people of the country. As it now stands that system is torn

into a thousand conflicting interests, big and little; companies fighting each other, agents fighting the companies and state legislatures fighting all of them. Mr. Ryon is to be mediator between those interests, and his efforts will be to bring economy, efficiency, rationality into a fire insurance situation that is notoriously the worst in the world.

How will he do it?

One of his tasks will be to get state legislatures to adopt rational and uniform laws, and stop regarding insurance companies merely as subjects for hostile legislation. His still bigger task will be to so reform and rationalize the insurance practice itself that the companies will cease to provoke the hostilities they complain of. And biggest of all, his function will be to educate the public on the subject of fire prevention, so that the enormous fire waste which is the worst factor in the complex situation, may be reduced.

An important position, is it not? Few greater in the country.

It has been said elsewhere that one of the pleasant uses of this book is to reveal to each other the men of Streator who are hidden by an excess of nearness. The editor has taken the liberty, without consulting Mr. Ryon, of presenting him as a special example of this defect of local perspective. In the minds of the discerning there is no doubt that the new positions created by "big business" are more important than those of politics; yet the title of Governor of Illinois fills a bigger place in the public eye than would Governor of Fire Insurance, even though the latter might mean dollars to the people where the former means cents. Mr. Ryon as Manager of the Bureau of Publicity and Education for the fire insurance interests has stepped into a front position among the "big business" chiefs of America, and his opportunities for public service are immeasurable.

His progress has been natural. Long an insurance man and lawyer, he has been special counsel for the insurance department of the state, and earned his greatest reputation as attorney for the Illinois fire insurance commission. He wrote its report, which is regarded as one of the ablest studies of insurance practice extant. He is also an expert on building and loan law, and is the author of the Illinois Building and Loan Law of 1898. Always active in Streator matters, he was for several years secretary of the Improvement Association, of the High School Board, and of the Chautauqua Association. A versatile mind, a brilliant conversationalist, a genial humorist, his talents are in demand at all kinds of events, serious or gay, whether at a banquet table, a social function or at a convention of business or professional men; and in all he acquits himself in a manner to please, to persuade, to entertain or to instruct.

Oscar Ryon was born in Ogle County, Illinois, in 1858, came to Streator at an early age, at-

tended its graded schools, and was graduated from its high school. He finished at the University of Chicago, studied law in Streator, and was admitted to the bar in 1881. Although his main office is now in Chicago, his business continues in Streator, and his home is, and will probably remain, here.

## THOMAS W. McVETY

### MINISTER.

No study of the life of a community would be complete that left out of account the factors



Oscar B. Ryon.

that make for morality and right living. The deepest forces that energize the activities of a city lie beneath the surface, in the hearts and wills of the people, and these draw their nourishment and strength from those hidden and unseen Realities which lie at the root of being. It has been easy to describe and chronicle the business activities of the town, for they lie obvious and easy to be read on the open page of its achievement, but the faith, the hope, the courage that inspire them—whence did they spring?

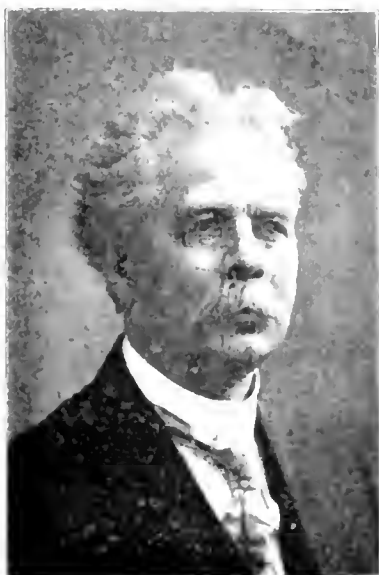
Deep out of the Ages they arose, rooted in those eternal verities which in all times have been the substance of

religion. Streator, with its restless activity, with its eager striving after material success, seems on its face less devoted to things eternal than some older cities, but its heart is fed from the same Source of Power, though it proclaims not its name so loud. And its manifestations of religion is different from that of former days. It seeks to express itself in terms of life rather than in terms of doctrine, in personality rather than in form.

This is why Thomas W. McVety has come to be the conspicuous representative of religion in Streator that he is. It is because he has embodied his religion in his life, because it flows



through him not alone in the pulpit, but in warm, personal contact with his fellow men through all the days and hours of the week. In



Thomas W. McVety.

him religion is a vitalized human force, pouring through him in a life giving stream, in the cordial hand shake, the warming smile, the genial

T. W. McVety is minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, but he is more. As Bishop Westcott, of Durham, was called "Everybody's Bishop," so may McVety be called Everybody's Minister." He is the pastor of the unchurched. If a sinner dies, a gambler or liquor dealer, who is called to say the last words? Why McVety, of course. He indulges in no false eulogies, but neither does he harrow the mourners; with sane, hopeful, tender words about life and death he leaves the sinner to the mercy of God, and from the living he takes not away the consolation of whatever was good and true, and noble in the life that has gone out. Out of sixty-six funeral services held last year, over fifty of them were for persons not members of his church. And at the sick bed, amid scenes of affliction, wherever trouble touches human life, there at the ring of the telephone will be found the helping hand of McVety, and his healthy, hearty, human personality.

In days of fierce denominational rivalry he suffers not the narrowing of vision which be-fogs littler men. He fears not to let his energies go out to other causes, even if they call for money from his own members. So within a month of this writing he was the leader in the raising of funds for the completion of the Sal-



Methodist Episcopal Church.

sympathy that spends itself alike on Jew and gentile, the churched and the unchurched—all who can give or receive human kindness.

vation Army building, and with lay help he raised \$4,500 in five days. A few years ago he raised \$10,000 for the Deaconess Hospital, Pe-

oria, and about the same time raised \$9,000 in Streator, with the help of his official board, and put his church out of debt. He has been the chief stay of the Chautauqua movement among the ministers, and through storm and shine has been its optimistic, energetic and sturdy supporter. Last year he was its platform manager, and is now its chairman of programme. For five years he conducted single-handed the Chautauqua at Galesburg, and turned the profit into the church.

The work of such a minister is no sinecure. Turning out two sermons a Sunday—sermons with brain and heart stuff in them—numerous other addresses at home and out of town, funeral sermons, prayer meetings, society and business meetings, pastoral calls—1,300 of them last year—McVety has surely a strenuous life. He has a magnificent church building, seats 1,600 people, which is given freely to proper public uses. The church has a membership of more than six hundred, over two-thirds of whom have joined since McVety came to Streator.

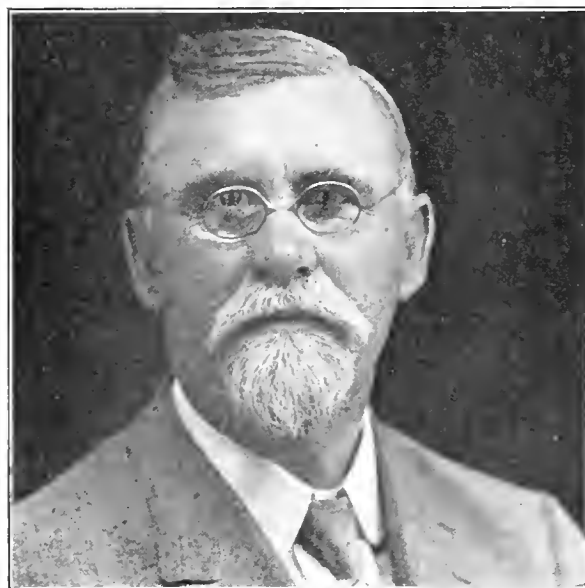
He was born in Sydenham, Ontario, Canada, in 1849, and took his degree at Toronto University. Joined the Central Illinois Conference in 1885, and has filled its best charges—Pontiac, Normal, Kaukaee, Peoria, Galesburg, Streator. He has been here nine years and has justified the change in the pastoral tenure, for his long stay has made him the force in the city that he is. He is Trustee of the Deaconess Hospital, Peoria, Visitor of Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Conference Examiner for 15 years, and has received the degree of B. D., M. A., Ph. D., and as this is being written, Doctor of Divinity. But he wears his scholastic title suggested in this article—"Everybody's Minister."

## J. C. BARLOW

The history of real estate development in Streator could not be written without including the name of J. C. Barlow. For a quarter of a century he has been a striking figure in real estate movements, and an aggressive and conspicuously successful operator. Incidental to his real estate operations he has been an extensive builder of houses, and a promotor of the growth of the city. He has always been a prominent worker in the various societies, under different names, for the development of the city; has been active in the location of fac-

tories, or in any line of effort calculated to upbuild the material welfare of the town. An intense and aggressive personality, he has made his power felt in any direction that called for his effort. At all times he has stood ready with donations of money or land to assist manufacturing or other projects that appealed to him as calculated to build up the town.

Commenting on this fact Mr. Barlow remarked: "Yes, it is true I have always stood ready to do my share for Streator with money, land or personal effort, but please observe that I ask no credit for it. I have had large real estate interests here, and I have always felt that anything spent in upbuilding the town was an investment and that some day it would all come back to me. I suppose most men are influenced



J. C. Barlow.

by similar motives, and I want no undeserved bouquets for what I have done for the upbuilding of Streator. This is my home. I expect to end my days here, and it is natural I should want to see it prosper. To this end I am willing now, as in the past, to devote my very best efforts and services. But please let there be no flowery eulogies in your "write-up" of me. Put me down simply among the men of Streator who have done their best for the advancement of the city."

Mr. Barlow's wish will be respected; and, indeed his deeds have carved his name deeper on the map of Streator than could any expressions of the writer, however laudatory. He began operating in real estate in 1882, and his first experiments were in buying lots and build-

ing workmen's houses on them, afterwards selling them on monthly payments. This supplied a need in a fast growing town, and became very profitable. He then began the acquirement of business property, and became owner or partner in fifteen holdings, being the largest individual owner of Main street property in the city. He became a subdivider of acre property, and laid out five important additions, most of which he has sold off in lots. He has also worked off 150 acres in one and two-acre tracts, all representing a series of operations of large scope and value.

The establishment of the Motor Car Works and the Metal Stamping Company are due to the money and credit furnished by Mr. Barlow. He has now retired from active connection with them, but it should be remembered that whatever they accomplish for Streator will be in large measure due to Mr. Barlow's contribution — which may involve a serious sacrifice.

J. C. Barlow was born in Middleport, Ohio, in 1848, and removed to a farm, handed down from revolutionary ancestors, near Callipolis, Ohio, in infancy. He staid on the farm until 19, and it was when leaving for Illinois that he first saw a railroad train. He entered into partnership with his brother B. S. Barlow, in the shoe business in Pekin, Illinois, and in 1871 moved to Streator and continued in the same line of business. After about eight years he branched into the real estate business, which, as before stated, became his life work.

## NATHANIEL McINTYRE PIONEER.

It is fitting that "The Story of Streator" should contain a record of the life of one of those pioneers of the prairie, which the early days of Illinois produced, and whose like we shall not look on again. Such a life was that of Nathaniel McIntyre, who spent most of his days on his farm in Allan Township, east of Streator, but who came to the city in the closing years of his life. He was born of Scottish parents near Colerain, Ireland, in 1834, and died in Streator in 1908. Strong, rugged, proud of his Scottish blood, he was a powerful personality, a natural leader of men, and he played a great part in the early development of the county. At the time of his passing an appreciation of him was written by the editor of this volume, a portion of which is here reproduced:

"What need of tears for a man who has been here for 74 years and has lived, fully, richly, strenuously, every minute of the time? For the man who has been here but has not lived, who has shut the door of his mind, who has refused to look at beauty, who never has been stirred by the pulses of sympathy—for such a life we may weep, and we may mourn for him as for one who has been deaf, dumb and blind. He has touched but not tasted life. He has had his chance, and missed it. But for the life that has been lived to the full, what is there but a song of joy, a paen of thankfulness that such a life has been lived by our side, in strong comradeship and manful courage.



Nathaniel McIntyre.

### A Belated Rob Roy.

"It is with such a joy that I contemplate the life of Nate McIntyre. Not for him is the crown of the saint and martyr. No meek and lowly follower of passionless perfection was he. No! Rather rough, rugged and aggressive was McIntyre, like his ancestors, the turbulent chiefs of the Scottish border, a man to take and give hard blows, a sort of belated Rob Roy, cast by the accident of time on the raw and unbroken prairies of Illinois. But in the perspective of time his form looms large against the background of the prairie, picturesque as the historic figures of Scottish chiefs against the hills of Scotia; and he towered big and masterful among the men of the plains as did Rob Roy among the clans of the Highlands. Always when I went out to the old farm and sat down to enjoy his hospitality the old saying

ever came to my mind: "Wherever McGregor sits, there is the head of the table."

#### **If McIntyre Had Left His Memoirs.**

"What a history of pioneer life might have been written if some Turgueneff could have recorded the memories of McIntyre! With what interest have I listened hour after hour to the graphic narrative of the daring and doing of those days, as they fell with gripping spell from his lips. Comedy, tragedy, pathos, he was equally master of, and he did not lack the eye for the epic, the heroic note, in the great drama of settling the new world in which he played so prominent a part. For he was not born a pioneer, and so he brought an eye to it trained under other standards. To hands accustomed for ten years to nothing harder than dry goods the plough handle felt very rough, and eyes used to city streets found a new vista in the wide stretches of untamed prairie. When the "Call of the Wild" came to him it found a soul sensitive to its hardships, but strong as steel to endure and master them.

#### **The Master Mind of His Parish.**

McIntyre was guide, counselor and friend to his neighborhood. In politics and business his was for forty years the master mind, and he was counsellor in law, and often in love and marriage, to the entire country. He composed domestic troubles, received confidences, wrote wills, and often served as spiritual as well as legal advisor to his parish, and many are the intimate domestic secrets of Allen and Otter that were buried with him. His power was great in his province, and he used it wisely. His example was always for progress. Before his neighbors had passed the big barn and little shanty stage, McIntyre had a steam heated house, a piano in it, daily papers and magazines on his tables, and sent his children to college to be educated.

#### **He Saved the School Lands.**

"In public matters the victory he was most proud of was the saving to Allen of the school land. This he did by sheer force of personality, contrary to law, and contrary to the will of the majority. But he always gloried in it, and Allen township owes a debt which it can never repay to the man who refused to sacrifice the children of the future to the greed of the living generation. He was proud, too, of building the county court house, which he did as chairman of the supervisors' committee in charge, and of thwarting the ringsters and

grafters of his time who were seeking to plunder the county.

#### **He Was Greater Than His Deeds.**

"But Nate McIntyre was bigger than his deeds. It needs such lives to remind us that a man may play his part greatly without doing anything that will cause his name to go down to posterity in marble or bronze. There is an immortality far more enduring in the pervasive influence of personality which leaves its impress on the lives of other men and is carried in the blood currents and in the brain tissues of the race, and this is an immortality which no accident of time or change can efface. And it may be said in conclusion that McIntyre had no faith in any other form of immortality, and it should be an inspiration to every lover of his kind that he was able to live his life greatly, largely, loyally, though often solitary and misunderstood, without hope of future reward, without fear of future punishment, sustained only by faith in the worth of life and the joy of human fellowship.

"He lived a great life. I rejoice that he lived it largely and humanly. For the rest there is faith; confidence that whatever the Land of Shadows may hold for him he will meet it in the spirit of the hero of Browning's *Epilogue*, and, like him, 'Greet the unseen with a cheer.'"

## **RUDOLPH D. KLINE**

If he who causes two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before is a public benefactor, what shall be said of him who raises thirty-five thousand dollars worth of crops on eighty acres of land that one year before was a wild and boggy swamp?

This is the story of a Streator man who performed that wonderful feat. Rudolph D. Kline is a gardener by the grace of Nature and his own genius. Where Edison and Tesla discover the hidden powers of nature in ions and molecules, Kline finds them in the dirty and despised mud of neglected swamps. Where the millionaire promoter makes his millions by taking them away from other people, Kline makes his thousands by extracting them from unutilized mud beds and thus adding to the actual wealth of the world.

Kline made his first entry into Streator as a youth of twenty-one, on top of a wagon load of garden truck. It was in the summer of 1867, and there was a miners' strike on at the time.

He came from Henry, Ill., where he was running a small truck garden. His green stuff found a ready market and he came again and yet again, and every time he came he found prompt and willing customers. This impressed the young gardener, and he finally concluded to move his garden to Streator instead of hauling the product here.

He came to Streator in 1877, and with his father bought the Kline homestead near Coalville, and built the family residence on it. After seven years of gardening in partnership with his father, he went into business for himself, and was employed in retail gardening for fifteen years. Later he formed a partnership with his brother to engage in wholesale gardening, which partnership still continues under the firm name of Kline Brothers.



Rudolph D. Kline. Clark Studio

It was during this wide and varied experience in retail and wholesale gardening that he acquired the knowledge and technique that was to fit him for the important work of his life. Among the pieces of land that he had worked in Streator there was one twenty-acre tract that was swampy. In reclaiming this swamp he found out the secret of converting bogs into gold mines, and when a hunting trip took him through the great Kankakee swamp he knew that he had struck the Promised Land. When the time came for the great drainage ditch to be cut through this swamp, Mr. Kline backed his faith with his cash and bought seven hundred acres of combined water and bog. What was the result? Take the story of one 80-acre tract as a concrete example:

### A Wonderful Story.

On December 31, 1910, this tract was a wild and trackless bog in the heart of the Kankakee swamp. On January 1, 1911, Kline moved on it with his force of workmen. They grubbed it, tilled it, fenced it, built houses, barns and sheds, and planted it to onions and potatoes.

Within one year of getting the title for this tract of land, for which he had paid sixty dollars per acre, Mr. Kline raised and sold a crop on it, for which he received in excess of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00.)

Forty acres of this land were planted to onions, twenty to potatoes, and twenty remained as woodland pasture. Forty earloads of onions were shipped from this field. One acre yielded 900 bushels of onions, and as high as \$2.25 per bushel was received for some of the product, it being regarded as of very superior quality.

Mr. Kline owns seven hundred acres of this swamp land, of which two hundred are under cultivation. He raises corn and other farm crops, as well as the more concentrated crops, such as onions, potatoes, cabbages, etc. His sales last year were about \$60,000, which is probably the greatest value ever produced on two hundred acres of land in Illinois or Indiana.

The land is worked on a comprehensive plan. It is divided into ten locations, each with its appropriate buildings, machinery and working force. During the busy season Mr. Kline uses two automobiles to haul extra gangs of men from place to place.

Much of the land is under water, and has to be dyked to protect it from overflow. He is now engaged in dyking a large tract, which he will drain by gasoline pump. The water developed inside the dykes will be piped to a large swamp, and from there pumped into the main drain.

### Depopulate the Slums.

As Burbank, the wonder worker, has specialized on plant species, so Kline has specialized on soils. When he found that the soil of Illinois had become too dry for onions and potatoes, he searched for the right soil conditions elsewhere and found them in the Kankakee swamps. He specialized on onions, and they paid him \$30,000 last year. All his life he has been a student of intensive farming. His success entitles him to be regarded as an expert, and his opinions have the additional value of coming from a man who has worked them out with his own hands and brains. Asked his opinion on the "back to the land" movement, he replied:

"I believe the farm has been the backbone and will be the salvation of our nation. I think it is easily possible to balance the populations of city and country. By intensive cultivation the farm workers can be greatly increased and the congestion in the slum districts of the cities relieved. Ten acres of Illinois soil would support a family in affluence. With ex-

ducer; one who has added to the wealth of the world; a witness to the fact that it is still possible to earn a competency in America without impoverishing your neighbor by so doing.

What has he done? What is his contribution to the wealth of the world?

He has taken a common garden vegetable, specialized in it, raised it to such a potency



Residence of R. D. Kline.

ery section road made of brick, an electric railway every three miles, with small farming communities dotting the landscape at short intervals, with every 10 acre tract supporting a family, farm life in Illinois would be a paradise, and its obvious advantages would soon depopulate the slums."

## EDWARD C. KLINE

This is the story of a man who learned to do one thing better than any one else in his generation.

The world will pay for the superlative; and so it has rewarded this man with a competency, though he is yet only in the prime of life.

He started for himself at 21 years of age, without capital. All that he has has literally come out of his own hands and brains. He has not taken it away from anybody else by exchange, speculation or promotion. He is a pro-

ducer; one who has added to the wealth of the world; a witness to the fact that it is still possible to earn a competency in America without impoverishing your neighbor by so doing. What has he done? What is his contribution to the wealth of the world? He has taken a common garden vegetable, specialized in it, raised it to such a potency

How did he achieve this success?

In the old, old way. By intense application, by days and nights of unrelenting labor, by unflagging vigilance, and by the unreserved giving of every power of mind and body to his work. He studied the nature of the plant, its food, its diseases, and its housing. He learned that it need to be stuffed like a tubercular patient, and so he plied it with plant foods, fertilizers and the like, till it could absorb no more. He found its soil needed to rest each alternate year, and so he invented a movable green house, which can be moved with wonderful economy of labor. With this movable ap-

pliance, on which he has a basic patent, he is able to make his seventeen houses do the work of one hundred of the stationary sort, and makes it possible for him to alternate his asparagus plots with a minimum of cost.

He studied soils and found that no two are alike; that what is food for one is poison for another, and so he studied his own ground with microscopic care, found just what elements it needed, and fed them those and no other. He thinks nothing of spending \$200 on an acre of land if it needs it, and no year gets by without his putting back a hundred dollars into each acre.

of E. C. Kline has been won. There is no magic in it; there is no luck. It is simply a matter of absolute self-devotion to a given end. For many years of his life he practically lived in his green-houses. He thought, breathed, lived asparagus. He was rarely down town, or found at clubs, sports or amusements. He gave all the powers of a strong and powerful nature to the producing of a larger and tenderer stalk of asparagus than anybody else, and he succeeded. He has made the Kline product the standard of America.

After achieving his ambition as a gardener, he has turned the direction of his intense nature



Residence of E. C. Kline.

The subject of seed was investigated with care. It was found to be intimately connected with the question of disease. He traveled hundreds of miles, visited the most noted gardens of the country, counseled with the most experienced gardeners—and then drew his own conclusions. He observed that the great asparagus plague—the rust—moved across the country like the human plagues. He noticed that the locations earliest attacked became immune, and conceived the idea of immunizing his own beds by inoculating them with seed of plants already infected. He applied his idea, and lo! it worked. While others have lost their crops, his have remained practically unscathed.

It is by such arts as these that the success

toward public service. Finding himself in conflict with one of the big public utility corporations of the city, he engaged it in combat single-handed, and whatever may be its final outcome, he has displayed a zeal, an energy, a public spirit which has won him the approval of a large body of his fellow citizens. He was president of the Streator Chautauqua for two years; an ardent progressive, he was a delegate to the Roosevelt convention in Springfield, and has also been active in religious and public service. As he is still a young man, filled with the energy of youth, and with a passion for social righteousness, he will yet be heard from as one of the constructive forces shaping the future of his city and country.

Edward C. Kline was born in Henry, Ill., in 1873, came to Streator in 1878, and has lived here, working at his profession as a gardener



Edward C. Kline.

ever since. He stands out as one of the strong characters of the town—a man who has learned to do one thing better than anyone else.

## L. P. HALLADAY

The latest factory to be established in Streator is that of the L. P. Halladay Company, devoted to the manufacture of automobile specialties. As these lines are being written the wheels of the new factory are turning, and they have been turning for ten days. Busy hands are at work, and it will not be long before the new truss roof brick building, with its 50x133 feet of space, will be a humming hive of industry.

It is of special significance to Streator that Mr. Halladay should erect his new factory here, for this city is no untried experiment to him as a manufacturing point. He has been en-

gaged in manufacture here before; in fact he was the pioneer builder of autos here, and was the founder of the Streator Metal Stamping Works. The auto made by the Streator Motor Car Company—the Halladay—still carries his name across the continent, and a number of the valuable patents held by the Streator Metal Stamping Company were invented and patented by him. He was a one-third owner and at the head of the manufacturing department of those concerns, when in 1909 he sold out his interest to Messrs Barlow & Chubbuck.

After selling out he continued his manufacturing experience. He went with the Staver Company as manager of their automobile department, having full charge of engineering and designing, as well as of the manufacture of cars. In 1911 he went into business for himself again, organizing the L. P. Halladay Company for the manufacture of his own special inventions. He started the new company in Chicago, remained there a year, then moved his establishment to Streator, and erected the new Halladay factory building. Asked what considerations induced him to return, he replied frankly:

"I came back because I like the character of the people, and because of the good friends I made when here before. In that sense the inducements were purely human, friendly and personal. One's friends make a large part of life outside the factory, and it is worth a good deal to live in a town where you like the people and they like you. Congenial companionship, sociability, good fellowship, was the first consideration; but I could hardly have come on that ground alone, if Streator had not been a good place for my business. I think it the best town around here for manufacturing. It has Chicago beat in many ways. I can have a good building here at a price I can afford to pay. My transfer bills are not half as high. Congestion of Chicago freight is avoided, and we can get much quicker railroad action. Best of all we can get much better labor here, at the same wage scale. These and many other advantages brought me back. There was no bonus, no gift of land, everything is paid for, there are no obligations between Streator and me, honors are even, and I'm glad to be back again among friends."

Mr. Halladay has spent a busy life, working with hands and brain, inventing and making devices of metal. Born in Auburn, N. Y., in 1864, he came in infancy to Chicago with his family, had a common school education and en-



tered his father's factory at the age of fourteen and learned the trade of machinist. He had an all-around experience on the road and in the factory, which his father owned in partnership with Gen. MacArthur. When the bicycle boom came he and his father established the Marion Cycle Works at Marion, Ind. After remaining there twelve years he started a factory for manufacturing music racks, which was later brought to Streator and became the foundation of the Streator Metal Stamping Works.

All his life he has been a prolific inventor. In the U. S. patent office there stand credited to him 57 patents, most of them on useful specialties. Quite a number are on the music rack, carpet sweeper and baby go-cart, which have been made here by the Metal Stamping Company. Many of the special tools and devices to



L. P. Halladay

economically manufacture these novelties are the products of his fertile brain, some of them displacing costly and complicated processes by a simple contrivance. The specialties now occupying his attention are attachments for automobiles, and include bumpers, side lever sets, brake sets, side tire irons, rear tire irons, strainers, oil can holders and number pad holders.

His brain at 48 is just at the maximum of its power, trained and disciplined in the production of 57 patented inventions. It is still teeming with ideas not yet visualized or made tangible, and perhaps it is yet to bring forth an

invention that is not only to make the fame of Halladay, but also add to the fortune of Streator.

## L. L. GRAVES, MACHINIST

Theoretically this should be a write-up of a machine shop, with a description of its lathes, presses, machinery and equipment to turn out work. Instead it will be the story of a man of genius who tried to harness himself to the routine work of the shop, but who broke his tugs and got away to a field more congenial to his talents.

L. L. Graves is a machinist by the grace of God and his own brain seared experience. He knows the throb of an engine like the Scotch engineer in Kipling's story, and can tell its ailments by its heart beat as well as any physician can diagnose a pulse. He knows its parts as an osteopath knows anatomy, and with a far more intimate sense of personality. For an engine to him is a living thing; he speaks of it as "she," and he enters into its feelings, its moods, its diseases as a good doctor enters into sympathy with his patient. But his remedies are more infallible than those of the materia medica, for they are of iron and steel, and when applied by the hand of an expert they never fail to yield uniform results in each case.

Long experience in his specialty has given "Lew" Graves a skill in diagnosis and treatment of sick engines that is almost preternatural. From a leaky valve, or a hot eccentric, to an untrue shaft, he knows every wheeze or creak or strain, and by listening with his ears and hands he can tell just what medicine to administer. This is why his reputation as an engine doctor has spread for miles around, and he is sent for from distant villages and towns as a consultant or operator. Little by little the doing of routine machine shop work has ceased to interest him, and he has been giving himself more completely to this expert engine practice. Among his regular clients are great concerns like the Marquette Cement Company with their 2000 horse power Corliss engines, who have called him regularly as a consultant for several years. The American Bottle Company, the Public Service Company, the various brick and coal concerns of the city, in fact everybody for miles around, who has an engine knows the name of Graves and sends for him when in trouble.

L. L. Graves and his father came to Strea-

tor in 1875, and opened a machine shop and foundry. At that time Col. Plumb was building his lines of railroad into Streator, and they did the machinist work for these lines. In 1880 the father died, and L. L. Graves personally took up the work. The mining business was then at its height and the business of the shop ran in the direction of mining machinery. "Lew" Graves was the first man in America to build a coal cutting machine to work in a "long wall" or low seam. John Kangley, a noted mine operator of those days, brought the idea to Graves and he worked it out. The machine was a success and on one occasion, under favorable conditions, made an undercut of three feet 1,000 yards in one day. Twenty machines were built and operated, but it was found they could not be protected by patent, and so were abandoned. Other of Graves' ideas



L. L. Graves.

went into the Cyclone ventilating fan for mines, which had a wide use; others into safety catches, hoisting engines and the like.

For the past ten years, for reasons before stated, the Graves machine shop has been giving more time to repair work than to original construction. The reputation of Mr. Graves as an engine expert and the calls for his services for treatment of engine troubles, makes it necessary for the force of his factory to hold themselves in readiness to take care of repair work when the master sends it in, and often it necessitates the working day and night until the job is completed.

L. L. Graves was born in Rockford, Illinois, in 1856. He came to Streator in 1875 and has made his home here ever since.

## PHILLIP SCHLACHTER, JR. MASTER WORKMAN.

Phillip Schlachter, Jr., is an example of education by manual training. He concluded his course in the Streator common schools at about 12 years of age, and begun his manual training in his father's planing mill. Phillip does not claim to have completed his course, for, as he says, "there is always something to learn;" but he has earned the degree of "Master Workman," bestowed on him by universal consent, and justified by his works, which are found all over Streator.

No better teacher of the art of wood-working ever came to the west than Phillip Schlachter, Sr., the father of the boy who went under his tutelage at twelve. Phillip, the elder, came from Mannheim, Germany, in 1880, and had a genius for building that is rarely equaled. He put young Phil at a moulding machine, and taught him to make his knives and to properly grind and temper them. This making of knives for machines was hard and exacting work, but Phil looks back on it as the most important part of his training in mill work. He then took the turning lathe and made porch columns, rewall posts, spindle work, etc., and then was promoted to the sash and door machine, then to stair building, and finally to cabinet work. This was the culmination of his training in exactness, for a mistake of the hundredth part of an inch might spoil the job. With all this went hand work, drawing and designing, and later when he became his father's assistant the work of planning and estimating buildings and the foundations of architecture.

During this long apprenticeship Phil got a first hand knowledge of the nature of materials, an experience of applied geometry and the art of measurement, a grasp of the principles of heating, plumbing, ventilation and all the widely related sciences that touch on modern house construction. Nor did his education leave out the culture of the humanities, for with architecture came in the knowledge of proportion, symmetry, design, and the principles of color harmonies, decoration and ornament. And so Phillip Schlachter, Jr. stands at forty-two, hav-

ing left school at twelve, a broadly educated man, Streater's first graduate of manual training.

His business has grown apace. He is owner of the Streater Saw and Planing Mill, and does a large general contracting business, builds houses and business buildings, and deals in lumber, cement and mill work. Among the monuments of his builder's craft are the Ralph Plumb school, the Schlitz building, the D. C. Murray and A. H. Shay residences, etc.

He was the first Streater builder to venture on concrete work, and built his own residence of that material ten years ago. With the growth of that business he has kept at the front, and



Philip Schlaechter

gone largely into cement construction. He has built eight concrete bridges for the State Highway Commission, he did the concrete work for the McKinley interurban line, and the excavation and concrete for the new Bridge street bridge. He also wholesales cement. Recently he sold 7,000 barrels in Franklin County, Ill.

In addition to a full line of out door and interior mill-work, the Schlaechter planing mill carries on a special line of manufacturing. It makes drawing boards, drafting tools and other novelties. Now in process of consummation is an order for 500 patented Triangle T Squares for the Los Angeles Board of Education for the use of the schools in that city.

## MR. AND MRS. LOUIS M. HARVEY

There is one place in the world where per-

sonality is the chief asset, and that is in managing a hotel. This is a story of how a young couple, without money or "pull," solely by virtue of their sunny dispositions and a genius for friendliness, have turned failure into success and made for themselves an envied position in the hotel world. It is a pleasant story, for it is one of those rare romances where the two lives became literally as one, and where not only the hearts but the heads and the hands were joined in united labor and comradeship to upbuild the structure of their fortune.

The first thing Mr. Harvey said to the writer was: "I want you to be sure to give Mrs. Harvey equal credit with me for any success we have won in the hotel business."

And she deserves it. For if the essential of success in hotel keeping is personality, Mrs. Harvey has it plus. Not only pleasing in speech and person, but with rare charm and kindness of manner, she is able to impart a home like atmosphere to the usually barren and chilly walls of a hotel that makes it attractive and inviting to weary travelers. Louis is equally fortunate in disposition. Large and generous in nature, as well as in stature, he has a smile and a hand clasp that is a sure cure for the blues. Walking into the hotel the stranger feels as if he is walking into the home of a friend. There is attention to his wants, there is ready information for him if he needs, and cordial recognition and hearty greeting if he has been there before. Friendliness is a rare gift, and a man must be born with it if it is to ring true. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey were born under a friendly star, for their spontaneous gentility springs from a real love of people, rather than from the studied art of interested politeness.

This is a pen picture of the dual landlords. Now what have they done?

When they took the Columbia Hotel in 1904, they had on their hands a place that was known as a failure. Louis had no money except what he had saved out of his salary for the three years he had been clerk in the same hotel. There were no rich relatives to give them a "boost." But Louis had a good head, a strong body and a brave heart. Mrs. Harvey, too, had courage and ambition and was not afraid to work. She took the housekeeping side as her province, and never were rooms kept cleaner, or linen more spotless. She tried to make each room home-like and cheerful a place where travelers would look forward to with pleasure. Louis took the dining room, kitchen and front as his part of the work. He managed

the labor, greeted the guests, and saw that the tables were supplied with the best the season afforded, and served in appetizing and pleasant fashion.

What happened?

The business grew by leaps and bounds, and the Columbia from being a morgue came to be one of the liveliest and most prosperous hotels in the state. Improvements followed. The house was rebuilt, remodeled and refurnished. And still the business grew. It became necessary to buy the old Arlington across the street and add it to the Columbia as an annex.

lights, hot and cold running water, in fact all the accessories of a first-class modern hotel. The Clifton is fortunate in being situated on the Fox river, on one of the most picturesque spots in the state, and when the Harveys finish adorning it, no more beautiful location can be found for those who wish to combine the beauty of nature with the comforts of a modern hotel.

Being asked the secret of hotel success, Mr. Harvey replied: "Give a man a good bed, a good meal, and make the place as much a home for him as possible. It is all the home he has, and the best is none too good for the traveling



Mr. and Mrs. Louis Harvey.

Again there was rebuilding, and the capacity was raised to 85 rooms, all equipped with electric light, telephones, hot and cold water, box spring beds, hair mattresses, in fact, all the adjuncts of a first-class, up-to-date hotel.

Still prosperity pursued the Harveys. And so they had to expand again, this time taking in the Clifton Hotel at the neighboring county seat of Ottawa. Again there was reconstruction, redecorating, refurnishing. An addition was built, and the capacity of the hotel raised

110 sleeping rooms, 45 of them with baths. A C. C. later was added, steam heat, electric

man." And Mrs. Harvey added: "Give him his money's worth, and have him appreciate it. You can't do this without good help, and the way to keep good help is to treat them right. We have some people with us that have been here since we started in business. Add to this personality, and you have the whole secret of hotel keeping."

Both the landlords are still young, and look the future in the face smilingly. Mr. Harvey was born in Streator on January 11, 1881, and got his education in the common and high schools. His first work after leaving school was

as clerk in a hotel, and though scarcely turned three decades, has achieved that which many hotel men fail to reach in a long life of service,

bus, and has served as district deputy. At one time secretary of the Citizens' League, he was nominated as candidate of the law and or-



Columbia Hotel.

Ending as we began, it is a case of personality—the fitting of the man to the vocation.

## B. T. KEATING

Mr. B. T. Keating is district manager of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, and has been in its service for twenty-five years. He has the distinction of having written the second largest life insurance policy ever taken out in the State of Illinois, the one for \$250,000 on the life of Mr. R. W. Crawford of this city. Few agents stand higher with the company, and he has been offered a state agency at a handsome salary and prequisites, but he prefers to remain in the old home. Mr. Keating has also been secretary and manager of the Home Building & Loan Association for the past eighteen years, and has conducted its affairs with distinguished success. He was for many years president of the Father Matthew Total Abstinence Society, was state treasurer of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union, has been for several terms Grand Knight of the Knights of Colum-

der forces for mayor of the city, but declined because of disinclination for political activities. Mr. Keating enjoys high consideration as a citizen, and has won for himself a comfortable competency and an honorable place in the esteem of the community.

These facts are set down by the writer with more emphasis than Mr. Keating would care to place on them, because they are the necessary background of a story of achievement which is one of the most inspiring in the book. Mr. Keating's life story reads like a romance. At one time there were many like it in the old world, but thanks to humane legislation, they are growing rarer.

He was born near the historic Bothwell Castle on the river Clyde, in Scotland, in 1857. His parents were from Armagh, Ireland. They were poor, and young Barney, as was the custom in those days, had to go down into the coal mines at nine years of age. Every morning at five he had to descend into the pit, and there were many winters that the poor lad never saw the sun shine except on Sundays. But the boy had a thirst for knowledge, and Scotland then

as now, foremost in love of education, furnished the pit-boy an opportunity. For seven years he went to night school, grounded himself in the fundamentals of an education, and finally qualified himself as an engineer.

In 1882 the lure of the new world touched the youth, and he sailed from Glasgow for the land of dreams with only a steamship ticket and ten dollars in his pocket. He came direct to Streator, arriving here with only one penny in his pocket. This penny he still prizes, and once paid \$7.50 for its recovery after its loss in the Heenan fire.

On arriving here, finding no work at his trade, he found employment as a section hand on the railroad at \$1.10 per day. Later he got



B. T. Keating.

work in the Coal Run mines as mule driver, which he accepted confidently, though when he went to harness his mule it was the first time he had ever put strap to horse or mule. Of course he succeeded, as such assurance and energy must, and he became successively mule boss, then engineer, and still later superintendent of the mine. In the latter capacity Mr. Keating was the first to hoist coal out of the lower vein in Streator.

During his strenuous years in the mines he passed through many vicissitudes and dangers from mine floods and gas explosions. Still on the sunny side of sixty, in the ripe maturity of his manhood, he looks back on his hardships with a smile; and if he has any pride in

any of it, it is in the achievements of the little pit-boy, who, with coal-grimed eyes intent on text book, studied out the rule of three in the night schools of Scotland. In that lad was the promise of the prosperous business man now respected as one of Streator's best citizens, Mr. B. T. Keating.

## M. A. BRONSON

If ever La Salle County boasts an aristocracy of "oldest families," the name of Bronson will give its holders entrance into the inmost circles; for the records of the county show the Bronsons to have been among the earliest settlers. The wing of the family represented by M. A. Bronson settled near Deer Park and he spent his infancy and boyhood on the parental farm. He came to Streator in 1874 and has since made this city his home.

Mr. Bronson is one of the most active and prominent factors in the democratic party in La Salle County, and has been a member of the democratic county central committee for ten years. Whenever his party has sought a winning candidate for the county legislature it has turned to M. A. Bronson, and not in vain. The result is that he is now serving his eleventh year as supervisor. During four of these years he has served as chairman of the board, a distinction bestowed on but one other city supervisor beside himself in the history of the county. For the board of supervisors is controlled by its farmer members, and between these and the city members there is always more or less contention because of the clash of interests over land valuations for taxation purposes. The chairman of the board of supervisors is by virtue of his office a member of the Board of Review, and that his former colleagues should have had the confidence in Mr. Bronson to elect him to this position is an honor rarely bestowed, and to be highly valued.

The supervisor is by law the Relief Officer of the township, and to him the dependent poor must apply for help. In the administration of this office Mr. Bronson has had the wisdom to apply, as far as the situation permitted, the principles of modern philanthropy. He has associated himself with Women's Clubs and Associated Charity workers, and co-operated with them in having relief administered on some well-considered and unified system. A special worker has been employed, investigations made, records kept, and often helpful

counsel as well as assistance in obtaining employment has been given the applicant. Mr. Bronson's ten years' record as relief officer is one of intelligent, practical helpfulness, a beneficence that sought to help without pauperizing the beneficiary.

Mr. Bronson has been active in all movements looking to the welfare of the city. He is a member of the Commercial Club, of many fraternal orders, and is the chairman of the building committee which has just erected the splendid structure for the Elks. He was born in



M. A. Bronson.

1850, near Detroit, Michigan, came to La Salle County in infancy, and has remained here since. As a young man he taught school at Mackey's school house and in District No. 6, while Streator was yet a hamlet. Later he was clerk, then railway mail agent running between Streator and Chicago, and later, and was for twenty years the representative of the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company. At present he is the Streator representative of the A. Peter Schoenhoffen Brewing Company, of Chicago.

## W. G. FOSTER, ARCHITECT

Whatever beauty of exterior Streator possesses, it owes primarily to the architect. Every beautiful structure is first an idea; then it must be clothed in form, and made subservient to the uses of men. In recent years the man to whom Streator owes most of its structural beauty is W. G. Foster. He it is who has designed many

of the fine residences and public buildings that adorn the city. If a citizen wants to build a new home or remodel an old one, his first step is to call on the architect. To him he will tell the number and size of rooms, and his general idea of the structure; but the matter of style, design and ornament is left almost wholly to the architect. Thus it comes that he is the most potent educator of taste in the community. Every structure he rears is a model which, consciously or unconsciously, exerts its influence on every passerby; and thus not only the present appearance of the city, but the taste of future generations, depends largely on the ideas of form embodied in the building which the genius of the architect calls into being.

Streator is fortunate in possessing a resident architect trained in the best traditions of architectural art. W. G. Foster is a graduate of the University of Illinois, and took there the prescribed course in architecture. Then followed six years of strenuous professional work in Chicago, in the offices of some of its most eminent architects, among them Howard Shaw, the famous designer of residence structures. He came to Streator in 1908 as a partner in the firm of Field & Foster, and since the death of his partner has continued the business in his own name.

The latest creation of Mr. Foster's genius is the new Elks building, which the writer has heard called the most perfect club structure in the country. This the artist has designed somewhat along Greek lines, modified by Colonial tendencies. Its fine proportions may be seen in the cut shown elsewhere. Another important building now under construction from his plans is the St. Stephen's school.

Perhaps the most perfect example of architecture of the Colonial type Streator possesses is the new suburban residence of Mr. F. Plumb in Marilla Park, the interior of which Mr. Foster regards as strictly Colonial in style. The building of the Williams Hardware Company, shown elsewhere, represents the Foster idea in store construction. Other recent structures from the designs of Mr. Foster are the residences of Messrs. Schurman, E. C. Kline, Dr. Dorsey, W. E. Connors, St. Anthony's rectory and the parochial residence of Father Egan in Eagle township. He has been called out of town to design several churches, notably the Presbyterian at Grand Ridge, the Baptist at Minonk, Norwegian Lutheran at Ottawa, and the German Evangelical at Dixon, Ill.

Mr. Foster is noted for the accuracy and completeness in the drawing of his plans and



sifications, and the writer has heard it stated on authority of one of the biggest contracting firms in Central Illinois that there are no papers come into their office for estimates so free from doubts and ambiguity as those of the Streator architect.

The most important addition in recent years to the architectural resources in the matter of exterior facing of buildings is the dark vitrified brick. Most of Streator's important buildings have been faced with them in recent years, and in Chicago their use is growing at a remarkable rate. In view of Streator's prospective expansion as a manufacturing point for these brick, it is good to have a favorable expert opinion on them. Mr. Foster states with deliberation that Streator vitrified brick have no equal in the world for facing purposes; that there are none produced that have such rich, deep shades, which can be run down into the blacks if desired.

W. G. Foster was born on a farm in Vermilion County, Illinois, brought up as a farmer's boy, took his early education in the common schools and finished in the state university. He is now building a residence in Streator, and regards himself a permanent resident of Streator.

## M. MEEHAN, JOURNALIST

When the industrial progress of Streator was committed by the Commercial Club to the hands of its new secretary, there were voices heard asking the question:

"Who is this Mr. Meehan that has been entrusted with so important a position?"

It is a fair question, and the editor feels that it should be answered in this book, "The Story of Streator," which Mr. Meehan has been chiefly responsible in calling into existence. Accordingly he has prevailed on him to permit the publication of such facts as the public is entitled to know about the new secretary of the Commercial Club.

First, it should be explained that Mr. Meehan is not a professional "write-up" man. "The Story of Streator" is the first and only work of the kind he has ever engaged in, and the character of the book shows at a glance its difference in conception and execution from the usual advertising "write-ups."

Who then is Mr. Meehan?

He is a man who has given his whole life to educational and newspaper work, the latter

years having been devoted wholly to editorial writing and control. He was born in Lindsay, Ontario, Canada, in 1859, and received his education in the public schools and at St. Basil's College, Toronto. After a period in the book trade, he went into school work, the last six years of which was spent as county superintendent and principal of schools at Vermillion, seat of the State University of South Dakota.

From teaching he went to journalism and became editor and publisher of the Carthage (Mo.) Daily Review. In 1896 he became editor of the Joplin, (Mo.) Globe, and remained there for six years. In 1902 he assumed the editorial management of the Concord, New Hampshire, Daily Patriot, and remained in charge for about ten years until the paper was sold. While there



M. Meehan.

he was the intimate friend of Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy, and wrote a book of four hundred pages called "History of the Great Mrs. Eddy Trial," which sold at \$5.00 per volume. He is also the author of a volume on the New Hampshire primary law. During his control of the Patriot the paper celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. After the sale of the paper he came west and assumed the business management of the Quincy (Ill.) Daily Journal, and remained there nearly a year until illness compelled him to undergo a serious operation in the hospital.

On recovering from his operation he was made publicity manager of the great Mississippi dam project at Keokuk, Iowa, and handled all the newspapers between Burlington and Hannibal, great and small, in the interest



of that enterprise. On concluding that engagement, not desiring to re-enter editorial work, he was attracted to Streator, and, being much impressed with it, determined to remain and get out this volume.

On his return to the west from New Hampshire Mr. Meehan brought with him a sheaf of personal letters from men eminent in public life, testifying to his worth in many capacities, which any man might be proud to earn by a life time of high living. A few excerpts may help to introduce him here.

#### **As a Speaker.**

He stood high in his party and was chairman of the democratic state convention. Says Mr. Clarence E. Carr, nominee for Governor:

"He is a facile and ready speaker, and a good presiding officer. As chairman of a convention or on the stump, he is equally forceful and eloquent."

#### **As a Public Spirited Citizen.**

Says Judge Charles E. Corning, mayor of Concord for the past six years:

"He has taken a prominent part in public affairs, both personally and as editor, showing interest in public questions and promoting all local measures calculated for improvement and progress."

#### **As a Writer.**

Commendation from W. J. Bryan is some-

thing to be proud of. Says the great publicist:

"I have known Mr. Michael Meehan for many years. He has unusual editorial ability. He knows what to write, and how to write it. I am glad to commend him."

From Hon. E. N. Pearson, Secretary of State, N. H.: "A bright, versatile and forceful writer, keen in analysis, logical in reasoning, happy in expression."

#### **As a Man.**

Pages might be added of similar encomiums, but one must suffice. It is from the pen of Hon. E. E. Reed, for eight years mayor of Manchester, a city of 70,000 people. Says Mr. Reed:

"Not only one of the ablest editorial writers in the country, but also that he is one of New Hampshire's first citizens, may be testified to by the thousands of friends whom he has surrounded himself with since his residence here."

Enough has been said to justify the Commercial Club in its selection of its new secretary and to introduce him properly to the citizens of Streator. A man of broad knowledge, of ripe experience, of rare personal gifts in meeting men, of boundless faith in the industrial destiny of Streator, Mr. Meehan will prove an invaluable agent in the forthcoming development of the city.



City Park.

# MEN IN THE PROFESSIONS

LEADING PHYSICIANS, LAWYERS, DENTISTS AND OFFICE MEN  
OF THE CITY OF STREATOR.

## DR. CHAS. L. TAYLOR

Among the sketches of professional men of Streator, there is one that by common consent will take precedence. It is that of Dr. Charles L. Taylor, dentist, publicist, humanist. Not alone because he was eminent in his profession—and few have equalled him in that—but because of all that he was above and beyond his profession. It is what a man knows outside of his business that measures his culture; it is what a man does outside his vocation that marks his eminence as a citizen. And it is Dr. Taylor's attainments and services in these directions that entitle him to precedence, and stamps him as pre-eminent among the professional men of Streator.

Professional work is intensive in its tendency, absorbing in its demands on the practitioner, and there are few who can give their best to their work and have any strength left to give to public causes. Thus it is that the community is deprived of the services of its finest and best trained minds, and nearly every healer comes to consider himself exempt from the larger duties of citizenship, and a non-combatant in the great struggles going on about him in which he could be a leader. Not so Dr. Taylor. A full half of his life was given to non-professional, non-gainful labors. And it is for this reason that the present writer, who knew him intimately for many years, esteems him as the ideal professional man—one who having superior gifts of educa-

tion and intellect, places them freely at the service of the community.

Did this retard his progress in his profession? Let the record answer this question:

He was president of the State Dental Society; president of the La Salle County Dental Society; delegate to the International Dental convention at St. Louis; member of the State Board of Dental Examiners—this without solicitation and made without his knowledge. He was organizer of the Dental Fellowship Club of Streator and was much in demand at dental gatherings for scientific papers.

What were his public activities?

He was president of the Board of Education for five years, alderman of the third ward for two terms, and chairman of the park commission at the time of his death. He was president of the Church of Good Will, a progressive religious organization, and for many years the faithful superintendent of its Sunday school. These indicate in only a small way the manifold activities of Dr. Taylor, but they do show his singular greatness of mind—a greatness that did not despise to use



Dr. Chas. Taylor.

big talents in small offices, a greatness that was willing to serve where the drudgery was great and the glory small, whether in the ranks or at the head of the column, wherever and whenever duty called. Greatest of all he was conspicuous in a profession that tends to turn men inward and selfward, in giving himself lavishly and unselfishly to the good of the town, its people, its institutions and its prosperity.

It was because of this self-giving spirit that the following could be truthfully written of him when he passed on.

"With the passing of Dr. Charles R. Taylor we lose our most public spirited citizen. Not that he was most conspicuously identified with prominent affairs or stood forth in the limelight of publicity; not that he was aggressive, dominating or assertively constituted, for he was none of these. But in quiet, persistent, unassuming ways, in doing unmasked commonplace work, laborious work, much of it in loyalty to unpopular ideals, in warm-hearted breadth of vision and quick responsiveness to demands on his purse, time and energies, Dr. Taylor embodied many of the splendid qualities of the coming man, the man vitalized by a social purpose.

"He was catholic in his large tolerance, winning in his genial ways with men, and so he lived among us, doing so cheerfully, so modestly, so patiently and lovingly his share in the social, business and family relations which make for social harmony and order, that we scarce realized how much his services meant to this community.

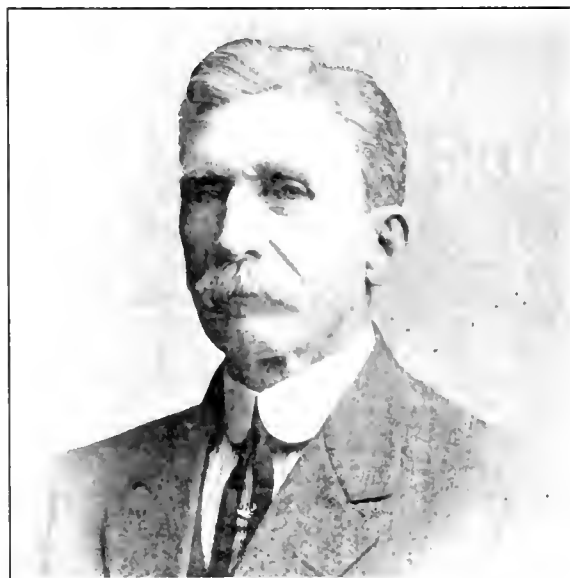
"In many respects his passing is not sad, for he left so much behind. He did not live a long life, but a full life. He has not gone far away, but only passed on to larger spheres of service, leaving behind a wealth of fine memories, tender sympathies, noble deeds, loving acts, kind looks, hearty fellowship and 'good will' to men."

Charles R. Taylor was born in 1848 near Folkstone, England, and died Sept. 13, 1906, at Streator, Ill., where he had lived since 1877 in the practice of his profession. In 1879 he married Miss Jennie Phelps, of Sandwich, Ill., who survives him.

## DRS. R. AND C. SCHURTZ

One of the oldest and most respected members of the medical fraternity in Streator is Dr. R. Schurtz. There are few, if any, who have a larger or more successful practice. He came to Streator in 1886 from Cass County, Michigan, where he had been in practice for ten years. A large practice attended him from the start, and for over a quarter of a century he has perhaps been the town's hardest working physician. In addition to his medical work he has not shrunk from public service, and has been president of the Board of Education since 1907. He was born in Constantine, Michigan, in 1851, educated in Kalamazoo and Ann Arbor,

Mich., took regular courses in medicine and surgery, and in 1902 took a special course in electrotherapies. He owns a farm of 440 acres in La Fayette County, Ill., which occupies any



R. Schurtz, M. D. Clark Studio

vacation or other intervals the doctor can spare from a busy life.

With him is associated his son, Dr. Carl



Carl Schurtz, M. D. Clark Studio

Schurtz, who, while assisting his father on occasion, has his own independent practice. The younger Dr. Schurtz was educated in Rush Medical College, and Marion Sims, St. Louis,

graduating from the latter in 1900. He enjoys a fine general practice and is especially expert in surgery. His popularity may be judged from the fact that he was chosen by ballot by the employes of the Streator Paving Brick Company when it became necessary to choose a physician for the works by the liability company.

## DR. D. S. CONLEY

Dr. D. S. Conley is one of Streator's foremost professional men, whose prominence as a physician has not been obtained by the sacrifice of his interests as a citizen. A man of rugged independence, and conscientious to the extreme, Dr. Conley has adhered to a high code of honor in his public and professional relations, and has stood by his convictions when it might have been easier to truckle. He is a strong advocate of the duty of medical men to take their share of the brunt of public work, and has urged that



D. S. Conley, M. D. Clark Studio

duty in season and out in the many medical societies of which he is a member. That he practices what he preaches is evidenced by the fact that he has been three times president of the board of health, is a member of the school board and chairman of the teachers' committee; was a member of the pension board under the Cleveland second administration; was the first president of the city physicians' club; is ex-president of the La Salle County Medical Society; and also ex-president of the Streator Club. He is a

loyal member and worker of the medical societies of the city, county, north central district, state and nation. D. S. Conley was born on a farm in Blooming Grove Township, Richland County, Ohio. As a boy he attended country school, and Plymouth High school. As a youth of eighteen he taught school in the winter to eke out his earnings and prepare himself for his career. Was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1883 in the first group to take the three years' course in medicine. Started practice in Kalama, Mich., in 1887, where he was also a member of the school board and township treasurer. He came to Streator in 1887, where he has created for himself a fine practice and an honored place in the esteem of the community.

## DR. ROY SEXTON

Dr. Roy Sexton is one of the foremost medical practitioners of Streator. He stands among the highest in his social and professional connections, and in his reputation as a physician and as a man. His scientific predisposition and study has led him to give special attention to surgery, and his services are greatly in demand



Roy Sexton, M. D.

as an operating surgeon, in which department of therapy he has won a distinguished success. Dr. Sexton is the son of Mr. James Sexton, a prominent and respected citizen of Streator, who was for many years a successful farmer north-east of the city. The doctor was born on

his father's farm Jan. 2, 1868, and was graduated from Streator High School in 1885. He took his Ph. B. degree at Oberlin University, Oberlin, Ohio, in 1890, and his medical degree from the Northwestern University Medical School in 1894. He studied abroad six months, began practice in Chicago, taught in the College dispensary there, and came to Streator in 1896, where he has since remained. He is a member of the Masons, Elks, Maccabees and Woodmen; and served six years on the library board, the years during which time the new structure was built.

## DR. HARRY S. LESTER

With the advance of scientific knowledge, specialization becomes inevitable, and Dr. Harry S. Lester has taken for his special province those maladies that afflict the eye, ear, nose and throat. He has not always confined himself to those organs, but superimposed his specialty on the broad foundation of eight years of general medical practice. He has found the more



Harry S. Lester, M. D.

limited practice abundantly able to occupy his talents and his time, and his office hours are often filled to repletion, some of his cases coming from long distances. Dr. Lester is distinctively a western man. He was born in Villisca, Iowa, March 23, 1871. In his education he spent two years in the Villisca High School, one year at the Western Normal College, two years at the State Agricultural and Mechanical College at

Shenandoah, Iowa, and was graduated from the Medical Department of the State University at Iowa City, Iowa. He took post graduate courses at the Chicago Polyclinic, Chicago, and in New York post graduate schools. He engaged in general practice in Woodford, Wis., in 1895, took up special practice in 1903, and came to Streator in 1904. Dr. Lester and his wife are both talented devotees of vocal art, and are active in support of the best musical interests of Streator.

## DR. ALBERT C. PURCELL

Dr. Albert C. Purcell is one of Streator's sons who has leaped at once into a lucrative practice. His father, Mr. Michael Purcell, was one of Streator's early and highly respected citizens, who founded the mercantile firm of M. Purcell & Co., which is still controlled by the Purcell family, and is one of the leading houses of the city. Dr. Purcell's success was no doubt aided by his wide acquaintance and honored family connection, but the main factor in it was his connection with the late Dr. W. L. Smith. Dr. Smith had established the reputation of being the most brilliant operating surgeon in these parts, and when declining



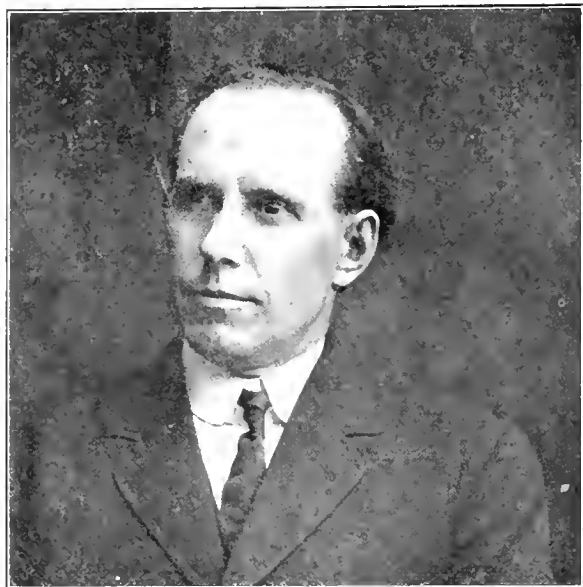
Albert C. Purcell, M. D.

health impelled him to seek assistance, young Dr. Purcell attracted his attention and favor, and he invited him into partnership. This was in 1907, and on the death of the veteran surgeon the young doctor succeeded to his posi-

tion, which he has filled with distinguished success, as may be judged from the fact that he is surgeon for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe R. R., the American Bottle Company, and the Chicago, Ottawa & Peoria Ry. Albert C. Purcell was born Nov. 25, 1880, in Streator, Ill., was graduated from Rush Medical College, and later was interne at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Chicago, Ill.

## DR. H. C. HILL

To an unusually thorough course of medical training, Dr. H. C. Hill adds a family predisposition for medicine, an "inherited tendency," so to speak, that is given to but few. He enjoys the singular distinction of being the son of a father who practiced medicine in one place for forty years, and who gave to the world five



H. C. Hill, M. D. Clark Studio

sons who adopted the medical profession, all of whom were graduated from the same college—the Rush Medical. Dr. H. C. Hill is one of these five brothers, and under the guidance of his father his preparation has been most thorough. After a course of education in the public schools and Eureka College, Eureka, Ill., he was graduated from Rush Medical College in 1904. He took a special course in the Eye and Ear Infirmary, New York, and later, in 1910, crossed the Atlantic and studied in the hospitals of London and Vienna. He began practice in Athens, Ill., later going to Springfield, Ill., doing special work, and coming to Strea-

for in 1902. He specializes in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, and has built up a large practice. He is a member of various national, state and county medical societies, is a Mason, K. of P., etc.

## DR. LYSTON D. HOWE

Although a Streator boy, Dr. L. D. Howe did not come to his old home for the practice of his profession until a comparatively recent period. After receiving his degree he opened his office in Leonore, Ill., in 1903, and after a period in Arizona for the benefit of his health, returned to Illinois and resumed practice in Cherry in 1906. He was physician for the St. Paul Coal Company in Cherry in 1909 when the mining disaster occurred which sent a thrill of horror around the world and caused the loss of nearly 300 lives. As a member of the rescuing party that went down into the fiery furnace of that mine, Dr. Howe won and received the honors due a hero; and his deeds then, and in attendance on the victims of the horror, reflected honor on himself and the profession he so nobly represented. The disaster practically



Lyston D. Howe, M. D.

wiped out the town of Cherry for a time, and Dr. Howe removed to his old home and began practice here in 1910. He was born in Streator Sept. 24, 1880, received his education at its common and high schools, at the University of Illinois, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He was house surgeon for the latter college and served as interne at St. Mary's

Nazareth Hospital, Chicago. He is surgeon for the C. M. & S. P. Ry., and the Streator Motor Car Co.

## DR. GEORGE K. WILSON

Dr. George K. Wilson is the latest of Streator's young physicians to "make good." He came to the city about four years ago direct from a year's service as house physician in Alleghany Hospital, Pittsburg, Pa. He brought with him a splendid equipment of knowledge and training in the most recent achievements of medical science, and a love of his profession which made him prefer its pursuit to any other recreation. Obscurity was his fate for a time, as it is for most young doctors, but not for long. Opportunity knocked at his door, and it did not have to knock twice. It found him ready,



George K. Wilson, M. D.

and so good an account did he give of himself that he was soon called into some of the most important cases by some of the prominent people of the city. His reputation was made, and today, after less than four years of practice, the name of Dr. Wilson is a familiar one in the city, as well known as many of the older family physicians, and his practice is large and well established. It is pleasant to record a success so rapid, so complete and so wholly dependent on the merits of the man. Dr. Geo. K. Wilson is the son of a Congregational minister, one of eight children, whose mother was left a widow without means when the youngest was three

years of age. Yet notwithstanding this deprivation, she saw six of them through the University of Michigan and graduate into professions. Dr. Wilson was born at Lake Benton, Minn., in 1879, came to La Salle County at 3 years, was graduated from Tonica High School at 15, went to Michigan State Normal College in 1903, to Ann Arbor University in 1907, where he was assistant in surgery; was house physician in Alleghany Hospital, Pittsburg, Pa., in 1908, and came to Streator from there. Dr. Wilson believes the foundation of treatment is diagnosis, and gives especial attention to his examinations.

## DR. LLOYD BRONSON

Dr. Lloyd Bronson bears one of the historic names of Streator. His grand parents were among the earliest settlers, and the family name is widely known and respected. His father, Dr. George Bronson, was for years one of the prominent practitioners of the city, and one of its most substantial citizens. Coming of such stock, and with such a wide family ac-



Lloyd Bronson, M. D.

quaintance, it is little wonder that young Dr. Bronson came to a prosperous practice with less struggle than usually befalls the youthful practitioner. He began the practice of medicine in June, 1908, and is one of Streator's rising young physicians. He was born in Streator in 1883, and received his medical degree from the Northwestern Medical School and the



University of Illinois. He took a special course in obstetrics at the Chicago Lying-in Hospital Dispensary, and specializes in obstetrics and the diseases of children. He has the distinction of having won a scholarship at the Northwestern Medical School. Dr. Bronson is a member of the Park Presbyterian church.

## DR. E. E. PERISHO

Dr. E. E. Perisho is a typical example of the American professional man, the type of which our country furnishes so many honorable examples. Like many of the most eminent physicians of the west, Dr. Perisho started on his upward career on the solid foundation of a farmer's training and experience. He was born on a farm at Yale, Ill., attended district school and was graduated in due time from high school. At 17 years of age he went to Valparaiso, Ind.,



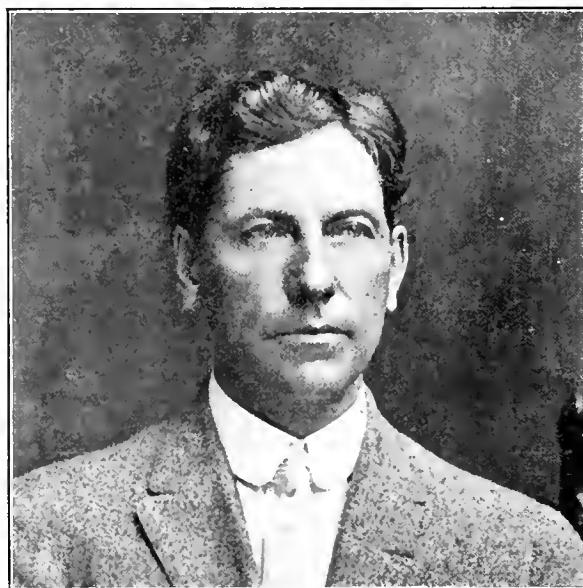
E. E. Perisho, M. D.

and took the teacher's course, then served as principal of a school near Oblong, Ill., for a couple of years, after which he returned to Valparaiso and took the pharmacy course. From there he went to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago, affiliated with the State University, and after taking the prescribed course was graduated and received his degree of M. D. While studying at the university he spent the summer months under a preceptor at Westfield, Ill., where he got early and valuable experience in the practice of his profession. He began practice on his own account at Ancona, Ill., in

1897, remained there seven years, then removed to Streator, where he is now established in an excellent practice. He is a member of national, state and local medical societies, and stands high in the esteem of the great life insurance corporations, for which he is resident examiner. Among these are the New York Life, the New York Mutual, the John Hancock, Union Central, Merchants Life and National Life.

## DR. M. F. DORSEY

The career of Dr. M. F. Dorsey furnishes an example of one of those surprising successes that occur occasionally in the history of the medical practice. He came to Streator about eleven years ago fresh from college, and enjoys today what is probably the largest and most lucrative practice in the city. At any rate it is so large that he has been forced to avail himself of the services of an assistant, and both of them are kept working at their maximum power. He came here a stranger, had no pull, and did not escape the year of starvation that comes to most young physicians. In fact he lost a thousand



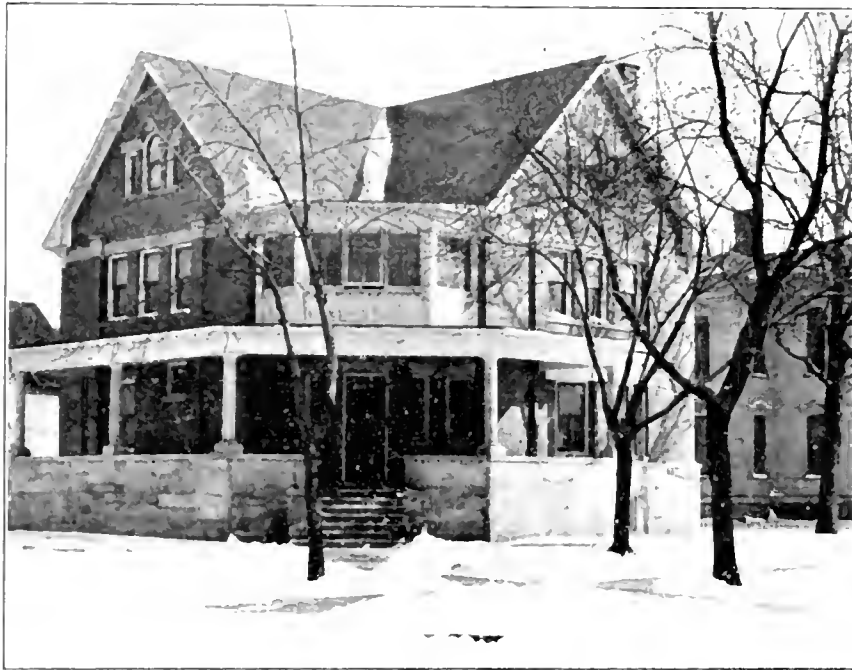
M. F. Dorsey, M. D. Clark Studio

dollars his first year in Streator and had to send to the folks at home for help. But he stayed in his office, stuck to his work, and when he got a patient gave the best that was in him. In time this absorbing devotion to the work in hand made an impression on the patients. The new doctor began to be talked about, and patients came thick and fast; surgical cases, examina-



tions, consultations and office practice, until he was so hard worked that his health gave way. He called in to help him Dr. L. Quillen, graduate of Northwestern University, who had two years

Dr. Ellen Adelaide Richards is one. In the movements in which the science of medicine touches public interests it is doubtful if any male member of the profession is as active and



Residence of Dr. M. F. Dorsey.

as interne at Mercy hospital Chicago. Dr. Quillen makes a specialty of laboratory work, for which he is specially fitted, and he makes the microscopic examinations, the blood, sputum, and urinary tests, the chemical analyses, blood pressure measurings, contents of stomach testings, etc. On the basis of these researches Dr. Dorsey makes his diagnosis and treatment follows. It is pleasant to record such a success on the part of a young man still on the sunny side of forty. It is outwardly evidenced by his erection of one of the handsomest brick residences in the city. Dr. Dorsey's career is typically American. Born on a farm in Lee County, in 1873, went to public school, then Northern Illinois College. Went back home and taught country school, then to University of Iowa, from there to Rush Medical College, from which he graduated in 1900, came to Streator in 1901, and achieved his remarkable success here.

## DR. ELLEN A. RICHARDS

The place of women in the healing profession is honorably upheld in Streator by two members of the medical fraternity, of whom

self giving as Dr. Richards. As a member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and



Ellen A. Richards, M. D. Clark Studio

other social movements, she finds time and energy, apart from her exacting professional du-

to forward those causes she has at heart and to perform public duties the male members of the profession too frequently consider themselves absolved from. Dr. Richards is a descendent of the ancient Rogers family that came to this country from England in 1635, and settled in Connecticut. She was born in Alden, Minnesota, in 1867; was educated at Hutchinson and Minneapolis, Minn.; at Battle Creek, Mich., and Chicago. She practiced in partnership with her husband for two years in Chicago, after which she had seven years of country practice in Eastern Illinois, near Watseka. She came to Streator in 1906. Dr. Richards is a member of the S. D. Adventist church.

## DR. IDA M. WOOLLEY

Dr. Ida Margaret Woolley was born in Es-men Township, Livingston County, Ill., on a farm owned by her father, Dr. Milton Woolley. When but a child she moved with her parents to Streator, Ill., where she received her pri-



Ida M. Woolley, M. D.

mary education in the public and high schools. In the year 1887 she began teaching in the Streator public schools, which position she resigned in 1890 to enter Knox College, Galesburg, Ill. Here she waited table for her board and used the money that she had saved teaching in school for tuition, books and clothes. Her stay at Knox was limited to several terms owing to lack of money, and she again accepted a teaching position in the Streator schools,

where she remained some time, not caring to return to college, as, in the meantime, her class was graduated. Having a liking for medicine and pharmacy which she inherited from her father and grandfather before her, she entered the Northwestern University School of Pharmacy, Chicago, in the fall of 1897, from which institution she was graduated in 1898. Being allowed one year in medicine for pharmacy, she entered the Sophomore year of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Keokuk, Ia. She was, however, required to "make up" Osteology, Histology, Physiology and Embryology—studies that do not occur in pharmacy. This was a very busy year for her. During the Senior year she assisted the Chairs of Pharmacy and Pharmacognosy, and thus defrayed her expenses. She also took a post graduate course of medicine in Chicago. For a period of five years Dr. Woolley did relief work in medicine and pharmacy in the states of Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. This afforded her an opportunity to become acquainted with the various cities throughout these states and also a choice of the same for the practice of her chosen profession. Dr. Woolley is not a member of any church, but she is very much in sympathy with any organization designed for the betterment of society and the uplifting of mankind.

## DRS. MUNSON AND BAILEY DENTISTS.

Amid the discoveries and advances of these rapidly moving scientific days there is no profession that has made greater progress than dentistry. Originally a side line in a barber shop, dentistry has advanced until in technique and equipment its demands on the practitioner are scarcely second to those of any learned professions, and it has the advantage over its sister professions in that its methods are exact—no guess work—and its results are absolute.

In the office of Drs. Munson & Bailey the latest advantages of modern scientific treatment are at the service of the patient. Especially do they call attention to their new system of painless practice. To the usual preparation for professional work which every practitioner must undergo, they have added special study and special equipment for the elimination of pain. Pain is the great dread of those who must have recourse to the dental chair, and Drs. Munson & Bailey have supplied themselves with every new scientific appliance and discovery

with which to overcome that dreaded dental experience from which every man and woman recoils. And, thanks to the progress of science, they are glad to be able to give the assurance that painless dentistry is at least an accomplished fact; and clients may visit their office with the absolute certainty they are not going to be tortured.



Dr. E. R. Bailey.

Among the agencies for the banishing of pain is the nitrous oxide apparatus for painless extraction. Nitrous oxide and oxygen are both used also for painless cavity preparation. The office is equipped with a full complement of electrical appliances used in the



Dr. V. W. Munson.

practice of modern dentistry; also a steam sterilizing outfit, and all the furnishings of an up-to-date dental office.

The Streater office is one of three owned and operated by Drs. Munson & Bailey, the other two being in Chicago and Quincy, Ill.

Both partners are graduates of first-class institutions. Dr. V. W. Munson graduated with the class of 1898 from the Louisville College of Dentistry, and Dr. E. R. Bailey was graduated from the Illinois School of Dentistry, University of Illinois in 1905.

Dr. Bailey is in charge of the Streater office, and the business has grown so large that he is obliged to use the services of an assistant. One of the causes of their unusual success, no doubt, is the moderate scale of charges for first class work. All kinds of expert dental service are performed, but however expert or difficult the treatment, Dr. Bailey insists on reasonable charges to all. The office is at 317-319 East Main street. Phone 116.

## LLOYD PAINTER

Among the younger generation of public men there is no name that shines with steadier lustre or more promising glow than that of Lloyd Painter, the present city attorney of Streater. He has been in the public eye since 1903 when he was first elected to office, then a young man of 26, and has steadily held his place in public favor until the present time. His life has all of it been lived in Streater; it is an open book on every page of which may be read a record of honorable achievement, with never a blot or a smear to sully it. It is this remarkable openness of his life, together with a reputation for integrity, ability and devotion to public service that mark Lloyd Painter as one of the rising young men of the republican party, and of the La Salle County bar.

He is now serving his third term as city attorney, having been elected to the office in 1903, 1905 and again in 1911. The third term was accepted as a public duty, for his private practice has now grown to the point that the faithful performance of the duties of the office involves considerable pecuniary loss. Mr. Painter, however, finds contact with the city council and its work pleasant, and this compensates in a measure for the loss of revenue. The greatest public question coming up in the present administration is that involved in the city's relation to the water company, which is a subject of bitter controversy. Mr. Painter has made an exhaustive study of the law on this question, so as to be in a position to properly advise the council. It is in such painstaking labor as this that the quality of a faithful city attorney will count, even though it may never be blazoned to

the public like some more spectacular or meretricious feats. It is the solid, enduring quality of Mr. Painter's work that has paved the way to his present success, and that points the way unfailingly to a successful future.

Lloyd Painter was born of pioneer stock and bears the name of some of the oldest settlers of this vicinity. He is the son of Jackson Painter, who lived on a farm north-east of Streator, until Lincoln's call to arms summoned him to battle at the age of twenty. Lloyd was born in 1877, spent his boyhood here and received his education in Streator's public and high schools. School teaching was his stepping stone to the law. He taught country schools, and later was principal of the Grant street school. Before set-



Lloyd Painter.

ting down to his life's work he sated the wander-lust of youth by a year of travel. This he acquired by a tour of the country as captain of the Streator Zouaves, a military company which won much fame for its exhibition drills. Returning to Streator he resumed the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1907.

Of warm social disposition, it was natural he should ally himself with the social organizations of the town, accordingly we find him a member of the Streator Club, the Elks, the Woodmen, the Mutual Protective League and the Athletic Club. He is also a member of the Park Presbyterian church.

## ARTHUR H. SHAY

Were this sketch to be written twenty years later the writer believes he could refer to Ar-

thur H. Shay as one of the leading legal luminaries of the state, perhaps of the nation. For he believes Arthur H. Shay to be of the stuff of which lawyers of national prominence are made. As it is he must be set down as among the foremost practitioners of the city and county. On the public side of his career there is little to be chronicled. He has been too busy practicing law to make himself a place in the public eye, but he has built up a practice single handed and unaided in his few years of service that is equaled by no other office in Streator having only one practitioner. His most marked characteristic is self-reliance. In his fledge-



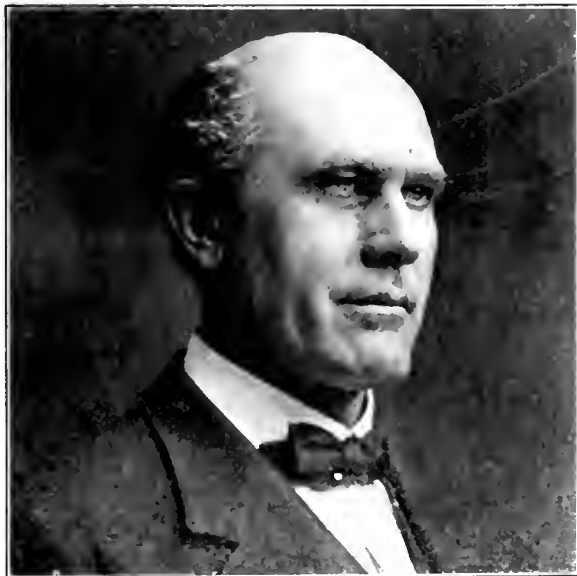
Arthur H. Shay.

ling days, when most young lawyers are wont to call in the assistance of county seat lawyers, young Shay went it alone, and succeeded or failed on his own merits. He succeeded oftener than he failed; because of his indefatigable power for work, and his ability for seeing both sides of his case. When he won his clients came again and brought others; and even those whom he defeated came to him when again needing legal services. And so without adventitious aids, by sheer force of brains and industry, he has made for himself a place at the forefront of the bar. Arthur H. Shay was born Feb. 18, 1872, on a farm near Carthage, Ill.; came to Streator in 1881, was educated in its

public and high schools, and at Northwestern University. Began the practice of law in 1891 alone, and has been at it ever since. He has been trial attorney for the C. & A. R. R. seven years, is a member of the Streator Club, Elks, Woodmen, and of the Presbyterian church.

## RUSSELL C. OSBORN

Mr. Russell Carl Osborn is a member of the leading law firm of the city, that of Boys, Osborn & Griggs. Mr. Osborn's father was secretary of state for Kansas, and he was employed in his father's office for a year before beginning the practice of law. He began practicing in Topeka, Kansas, in 1896, and became associated with Mr. Charles J. Devlin, the well known owner of the Devlin coal properties in Spring Valley, Toluca and other Illinois points. Mr. Osborn came here as Mr. Devlin's attorney, and after the collapse of the latter came in contact with Receiver Reeves while settling the estate. Their cooperation in the Devlin settlement led to a partnership which was formed under the name of Reeves, Osborn & Griggs and later, on the death of Mr. Reeves, changed to Boys, Osborn & Griggs. Since that time Mr. Osborn has made Streator his home, and has taken an interest in everything calculated to upbuild the



Russell C. Osborn.

city. A ripe lawyer, a good citizen, his coming has been an accession to the civic, social and intellectual life of the town. Mr. Osborn was born in Ames, Iowa, on Feb. 20, 1872, was edu-

cated in Stockton Academy, and in Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas. He established himself in Streator in 1896.

## EDWARD M. GRIGGS

The greatest honor that could befall a law student in Streator was to be invited to a partnership by Hon. Walter Reeves. This honor came to Edward M. Griggs, on his admission to the bar, after having been a student in Mr.



Edward M. Griggs.

Reeves' office. When the great lawyer and publicist passed on and Mr. Boys returned to the office, the firm name became Boys, Osborn & Griggs. The junior partner has been busy justifying Mr. Reeves' judgment, and has had little time to figure in public affairs; but he has been digging into the law, trying cases, writing briefs, and attending to the multifarious details which the business of a big law firm brings to the office. He has made good, and the future lies before him big with promise. He was born in Streator Jan. 30, 1882, was educated at the local public and high schools, and was graduated from Beloit College, class of 1903. He began practice in 1906 as stated with Mr. Reeves, the firm then being Reeves, Osborn & Griggs. He is the son of one of the most respected citizens of Streator, Mr. Oakley Griggs, for 30 years head of the Oakley Griggs Drug Co.

## ROBERT E. LARKIN

Robert E. Larkin is the junior member of the law firm of Lucey & Larkin of this city. Mr. Larkin was born and reared two miles west of Streator in the town of Eagle. He received his early education at the Kangley public schools; later he completed his classical course



Robert E. Larkin.

of studies at the Streator High School and at St. Bede College, in this state. He then took up the study of law and in October, 1906, was admitted to the Illinois bar. Immediately thereafter he began the practice of law in this city and in September, 1907, formed a partnership with P. J. Lucey, of this city. Mr. Larkin has also been admitted to the practice of law in the District and Circuit Courts of the United States and has successfully conducted cases in the U. S. Courts and the highest courts of the state of Illinois. He is a member of the Streator Club and of the Streator Commercial Club. He has since starting in business in Streator always contributed to the building of our new churches and schools and to all public enterprises. His motto is "Progressive Citizens Make Progressive Cities."

## WILLIAM C. JONES

Mr. William C. Jones had the great dis-

tion of beginning his professional career in partnership with one who has since become one of the most famous judges in America. Mr. Jones made his entrance into the legal arena in Chicago in 1892. He was claim attorney for the Grand Trunk Railway and became associated while in that connection with Judge Kenesaw M. Landis, who was then a practicing lawyer, not yet having made his noted decision in the Standard Oil Case. He remained in association with Judge Landis until the latter was promoted to the bench, and Mr. Jones then came back to his boyhood home and formed a partnership with Mr. Paul R. Chubbuck, which continued until about a year ago. Mr. Jones is forging to the front as a lawyer, and already is at the head of one of the strong law practices of the city.



William C. Jones.

An able, aggressive, conscientious man, he was chosen leader of the moral forces of the city in the last municipal campaign and won respect and admiration for his high ideals and lofty purposes. A Streator boy, born in 1881, he is a man with whom the future must reckon.

## F. M. POWERS

Frank M. Powers is an individualist. He has never sought a partnership or alliance with any supporting interest. When he comes to look back on his career he will have the satisfaction of knowing that his success is due to

himself. He is still in the early thirties, is happily married and a father, and is climbing steadily toward a comfortable competency. His start is made, his position is assured, and he is fairly in the race of life with good health, good habits and a reputation for ability and integrity that will carry him a long way toward the goal. Mr. Powers is wholly a Streator product. He was born here on Feb. 10, 1880, had his public school education here, and was graduated from the Illinois University. He is the son of one of



Frank M. Powers.

Streator's oldest and most respected citizens, for many years one of Streator's hardware merchants. Though he passed on some years ago, his name is so esteemed that it is still kept at the head of its largest hardware establishment, Powers & Williams. Though giving his most serious interest to the law, Mr. Powers finds time to devote to the finer arts, and is regarded as the best amateur thurist in the city.

## C. H. LINSCOTT

C. H. Linscott is one of the bright and promising sons of Streator who has fought his way up to professional position with bare hands. He comes straight from the people and carries with him the tang of the soil, and the unemasculated virility of long generations of workers. His father, a blacksmith, but a man of unquestioned force and intellectual endowment, was able to do but little "boosting" for his son. Young Linscott managed, however, to get an educa-

tion in the local schools, and was graduated from the high school in 1898. After that he did any honest work that he could turn his hand to. He carried a hod, drove a team and clerked in a store. From 1902 to 1906 he served as deputy sheriff of La Salle County. The nameless something in men that keeps them from stagnating urged him on; he read law with W. H. Boys, and in December, 1910, received the coveted



C. H. Linscott.

prize and was admitted to the bar. He begun practice immediately, and the same energy and push that characterized his youth is marking with success his career as a lawyer. He is secretary of the Police and Fire Commission of Streator, and a member of the Elks. He can be found in his office at 101 East Main street, and is ready for any kind of law business.

## JOHN F. BUCHNER RECORDER.

John F. Buchner, who since December A. D. 1904, has filled the position of Recorder of Deeds in La Salle County, was born upon a farm in Carroll County, Indiana, November 21st, A. D. 1864, and is of German lineage. In 1867 Mr. Buchner, with his parents removed to Peru, Illinois. Soon after they took up their abode in La Salle, Illinois, where the boyhood days of John F. Buchner were passed. The German tongue was spoken in the household and he early became familiar with that language as well as with English. His education was acquired in the public schools of La Salle. In A.



D. 1883 Mr. Buchner came to Streator, where he became employed by the Streator Bottle & Glass Co., holding various positions with said company. In A. D. 1889 he was elected a member of the city council from the first ward and for three consecutive terms was continued in that position. In A. D. 1904 additional political honors came to him through his election to his present position, that of County Recorder of Deeds, which position he has filled for the past eight years, and at present holds. During his time as Recorder of Deeds Mr. Buchner has become familiar with all the records in La Salle County, and is now at the head of the "Buchner and Roe La Salle County Abstract Company." Mr. Buchner was married on October 16th, A. D. 1888, to Miss Louise Bertiaux, a daughter of one of the pioneer window glass workers, who came to this country from France. Three children grace this marriage—Albert F., Ernest J. and Louise Carmen, aged respectively twenty, nineteen and twelve years.

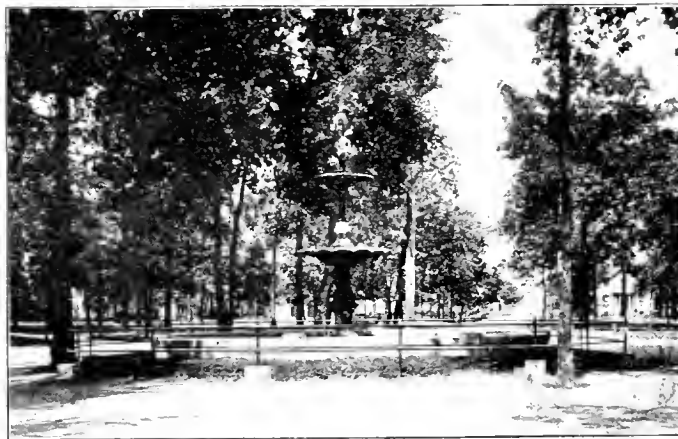
Mr. Buchner is a member of Humboldt Lodge, No. 555, A. F. and A. M., Shabbona Chapter No. 37, R. A. M., Ottawa Commandery, No. 10, Knight Templars, B. P. O. E. No. 591, Royal Arcanum and Modern Woodmen of America. The same thoroughness which has characterized his business life has been mani-

fest in his official service and he brings to bear in the discharge of his duties an industry and close application which expedites matters and



John M. Buchner

make him a capable official for the people of La Salle County.



View in City Park



## CHARLES L. McNAMARA

### CITY CLERK.

There is a belief common among men that each is born into this world with some business or professional endowment or tendency, which, if courageously, persistently and intelligently followed and developed, guarantees to him a reasonable success in life.

That particular thing which manifest itself in Charles L. McNamara, City Clerk of Streator, is his ability to make and hold friends—

Mr. McNamara has had experience in legislative matters in Springfield, having gone through a session there in the capacity of committee and private secretary and clerk, and this experience coupled with a five years' responsible position on the Santa Fe enables him to give to the discharge of the duties of his present position, a ripened judgment that is valuable to himself and the people.

Charlie is an enthusiastic supporter of legitimate sport and his activity, contributions and zeal, coupled with that of many others, make possible the high standard of out of door en-



Charles L. McNamara.

the faculty he possesses of recommending himself on short acquaintance to his fellows, and of winning their kindly and substantial regard. This, in a very large measure, accounts for the fact that although of the minority party, he holds the position he does in the city today.

In the performance of his public duties "Charlie," as he is popularly known, is accommodating, treating all alike and meeting all with fairness, kindness and courtesy. In the deliberations of the city council his judgment is consulted because of his familiarity with the details of the city's affairs.

tertainments so desirable and necessary in modern urban life.

Charles L. McNamara was born in Newark, Ohio, in 1881, and with his family came to Streator when eight years of age, and has received his education and lived his life here. To predict a future for him is not the purpose of this word of appreciation, but that a man so efficient, so popular and so accommodating will go forward to bigger and better things in public matters, is a foregone conclusion in the minds of men who are watching the drift of things.



G. C. Daniels.  
Alderman from fourth ward; succeeded  
William Cool.



E. D. Roberts,  
Alderman from first ward; succeeded  
John Diederich.

## THE ORDER OF ELKS

If the Streator Club represents the age and wisdom of Streator, the Elks represents its young life, its push and vim and energy. There are 320 of them, and every one is a booster, hustler and worker. They are organized for social purposes only, to cultivate the graces of friendship and the softer amenities of life. Their lodge room is a retreat from the stress of business, an oasis where joy and kindness may flourish amid the burning heat of competitive strife.

billiard room, cafe—all the adjuncts of a first-class club room. It is 120x50 feet in size and when completed will have cost not far from \$50,000.

While not permitted to divulge any of their good deeds, it is an open secret that the charity of the Elks is deep, wide and all-embracing. Like the dew, it falls gently, and not even its beneficiaries know whence it comes. Their own public beneficence is their annual Thanksgiving dinner to poor children. Last year 400 chil-



New Elks' Club House.

That is why they want their Elks' rooms inviting and attractive, and so they have just erected the beautiful edifice which is to be their future home, one of the handsomest structures in Streator. It is situated on a prominent corner facing the city park, near the heart of the city, and is equipped with gymnasium, bowling alleys, shower baths, ball room, ladies parlors,

dren partook of their hospitality.

The officers for the present year are: M. A. Bronson, Exalted Ruler; Arthur H. Shay, Esteemed Loyal Knight; A. M. McCoy, Esteemed Lecturing Knight; Harry R. Smith, secretary; C. A. Raymond, treasurer; Max Murdock, Delegate to Grand Lodge. The trustees are R. F. Purcell, W. H. Jennings and J. W. Fornof.

# STREATOR HEAT AND LIGHT COMPANY

Operates

“THE SCHOTT SYSTEMS”

Of

## Central Station Heating

### Some Advantages:



Central Station heat is the ideal heat.  
The service requires no attention or worry  
No Fire in building reduces fire risks  
Absence of boilers eliminates explosions  
and floods  
Absence of coal eliminates smoke, ashes  
and dust  
No care or responsibility to maintain heat  
Ability to heat properly at all times  
Hot Water for bath or domestic purposes  
day or night  
Reduced investment due to boilers and  
space  
Consumer controls cost of heating  
Company receives pay for heat actually  
furnished

F. Plumb, Pres.

E. F. Plumb, Vice-Pres.

George Goulding, Sec'y.

F. M. Whiting, Supt.

# Streator Paving Brick Co.

*Office in Opera House Block, Streator, Illinois*

Manufacturers of Paving Blocks, Repressed  
Brick, Wire Cut Brick, Common Building  
Brick and Colonial Face Brick.

*Our brick have been used locally in the construction  
of the following buildings during the year 1911.*

*Elk's Club House; Griffith's Laundry; Monitor  
Printing Office; Salvation Army Building, face; Dr. M. F.  
Dorsey, residence; A. H. Anderson, residence; F. Plumb,  
residence.*

*Other buildings in which our brick have been used:*

*Post Office; Christian Church; Congregational  
Church; Evangelical Church and Parsonage, (German);  
St. Steven's Slavish Church, Grant School; Joseph Vipond,  
residence; R. Kiefer, residence; W. E. Connors, residence;  
C. Schroeder, residence; Linn Mulford, residence.*

Streator Shale Brick are noted for durability and for artistic appearance. The  
Streator Paving Brick Company has shipped brick as far North as Winnipeg, Canada,  
and as far south as Vicksburg, Mississippi. We invite any one interested to call or write.

OFFICE TELEPHONE, 120.

YARD TELEPHONE, 494

# THE MURRAY STORE

ESTABLISHED 1888

## STREATOR'S BEST TRADING PLACE

This Store represents everything that is best in Modern Merchandising, large and well  
assorted stocks in every Department. Newest Styles are shown on our counters as soon as  
they can be seen in the Metropolitan cities of the country.

Our prices for Dependable Merchandise are, as a rule, less than those in other  
stores.

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*The policy of selling brands of recognized merit, at lowest prices possible for the grade, has brought to this store the confidence of the people, and accounts for its continuously increasing trade.*

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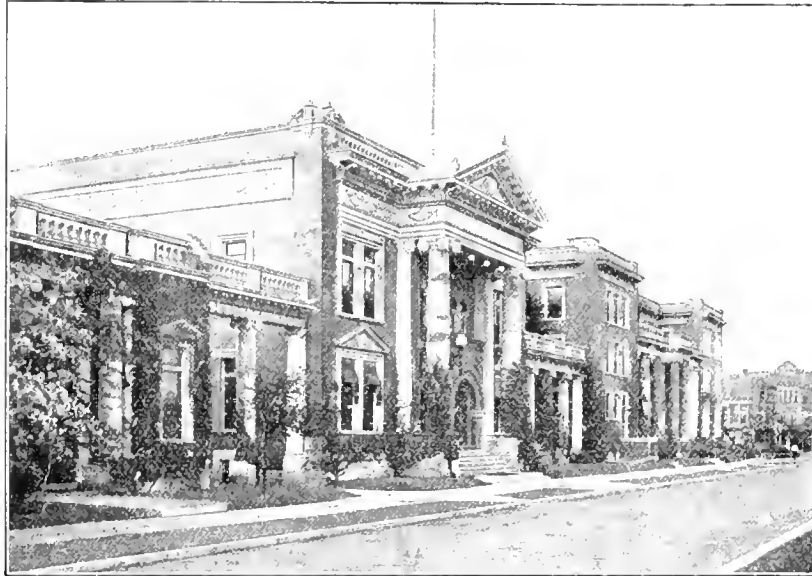
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# THE KEELEY INSTITUTE



**T**HE famous Keeley Institute operated by The Leslie E. Keeley Company, a corporation, is located at Dwight, Illinois, twenty miles from Streator. It is probably the most widely advertised and best known corporation in the State of Illinois. The late Dr. Leslie E. Keeley began the treatment of drunkenness, drug addictions, the tobacco habit and nervous disorders many years ago, meeting with remarkable success, so much so that in 1880 he abandoned private practice entirely and established the Keeley Institute, devoting himself exclusively to that work thereafter. There are now Keeley Institutes in foreign countries, besides which there are one or more in nearly every state in the union.

The Institute consists of a laboratory and office building, a hotel and power house, all of fire proof construction and up-to-date in every particular. The Hotel Livingston, undoubtedly the finest hotel in Illinois outside of Chicago, is where most of the patients board, but this hotel is also open to the public.

The Keeley treatment has a record of about four hundred thousand cures to its credit, and as far as results are concerned, it is recognized as being not only the standard, but also without rivals or competitors. Business is conducted on a high plane; everyone is treated fairly. All business is strictly confidential. Printed matter is always sent out in a sealed envelope when requested, and full particulars are given by letter. Liquor cases and cases of drug addictions have to be treated at the Institute. There are home remedies for the tobacco habit and nerve irritability.

The company maintains an office in Chicago, which is located in the Rector Building, Suite 906, 79 W. Monroe Street.

# R. T. SHAW, PLUMBER



ONE of Streator's longest established businesses is that of R. T. Shaw, plumber. In 1891 Mr. Shaw opened his plumbing shops on Vermillion Street and has been on this street during all the intervening years, his present address being 113 North Vermillion Street.

The business necessarily began in a very small way and its steady growth to its present size has been due to the manner in which Mr. Shaw has met the plumbing requirements of Streator and the splendid increase of the business is proof that they were met satisfactorily. The modern equipment of the business makes possible the handling of work from the largest to the smallest measure.

A little over one year ago Mr. Shaw introduced a new feature into his business when he took over the Streator agency for the "Champion Coal and Gas Range 2 in 1." The success of this new department has greatly exceeded his expectations and the efficiency of the range can now be testified to by over twenty of Streator's best homes.

Mr. Shaw also carries a full line of plumbing accessories together with heating, gas and electric fixtures.

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The Tierney Brothers, in connection with their other business, handle considerable real estate and loan money. Their trade extends over this whole section of Illinois and because of the large shipments made, this firm appreciates the advantages Streator possesses as a railroad center.

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